Hafa Adai!

Torres: USCIS should create division to expedite CW-1 permits. PAGE 2
Manglona, Camacho, Bogdan up for retention election. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Man killed in alleged hit-and-run

100.1% of NMI now fully vaccinated

The CNMI has now surpassed its target number of the population for vaccination, reaching the 100.1% mark last Saturday. The CNMI has now fully vaccinated a total of 43,119 people, which is 30 more than the target of 43,089 of the CNMI's eligible population.

According to the latest report from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., a total of 280 COVID-19 vaccines were administered on Feb. 12, 2022, resulting in 100.1% of the CNMI's eligible population being fully vaccinated. The population

See NMI on Page 4

CNMI UPDATES TRAVEL PROTOCOLS

5th day testing now optional for vaccinated travelers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI continues to evolve and adapt to the "new normal" under the COVID-19 pandemic, this time updating its travel protocols to make fifth day testing optional for fully vaccinated travelers.

During a COVID-19 protocol forum last Friday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña informed government and private sectors of the new COVID-19 protocols in place in light of the recent surge of

See 5TH on Page 4

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Will Castro, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff, introduces the set of panelists for the COVID-19 protocol forum last Friday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was found dead along the shoulder of Middle Road last Saturday evening following an alleged hit-and-run.

Around 9pm last Saturday, Department of Public Safety officers closed off all four lanes along Middle Road near Quick Steam Car Wash and JY Carwash.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan confirmed that a car had collided with a cyclist that evening but no additional details were available as of press time.

A credible source later confirmed that an unresponsive individual was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center's Emergency Room late Saturday following an accident and he later succumbed

See MAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:01pm, Feb. 13, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	100.1%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,876
Fully Vaccinated:	36,814
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,326
Fully Vaccinated:	5,172
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,133

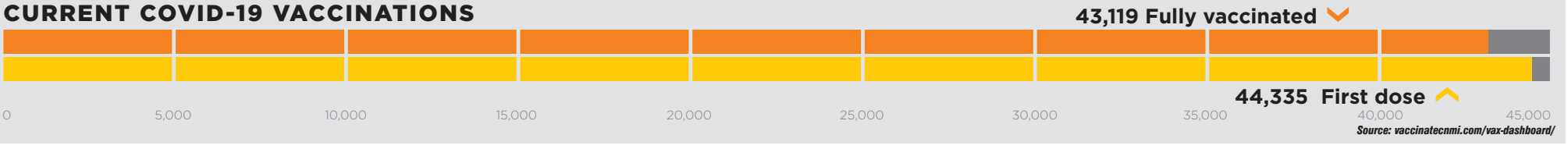
GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	38,672	1,313[1]	39,985
Recovered	31,862	44	31,906
Active	6,460	1,313	7,773
Deaths	305	1	306

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,784	569[2]	7,353
Traced via Travel Screening	617	0	617
Traced via Community Screening	6,167	569	6,736
Deaths	23	0	23

[1]2/13=345; 2/12=345; 2/11=623
[2]2/12=154; 2/11=189; 2/10=226

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Mommyla Spa and Salon will be opening its doors today in time for Valentine's Day.
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HEALTH & WELLNESS
What are some ways to show emotional support and love to children and to have quality time as a family?
Page 14

LIFE & STYLE
Justin Bieber can leave even a room full of elite athletes, actors and A-listers star struck.
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Local

NOTING MANY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN THE CNMI

Governor says USCIS should create division to expedite CW-1 permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Noting the many infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline in the CNMI, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services should have a special division just to address the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW-1) permits in the Commonwealth.

In response to a question about the CW-1 program during a radio press briefing last Friday, Torres said that USCIS can expedite the CW-1 process with the creation of the special division as this would also drastically drop the percentage of contract workers being denied in terms of the length of that process.

"We continue to advocate the need of contract workers and more so our construction workers," he said.

The governor noted that many studies done by different programs and organizations have shown that even if the CNMI were to employ all eligible U.S. citizens here, the Commonwealth would still not have enough workers.

Torres

The governor said this lack of workforce has hampered the Commonwealth's recovery from the devastations of super typhoons. He said CW workers are needed to build the infrastructure and the homes under the Federal Emergency Management Agency program.

Torres said the federal government's approach is making sure that U.S. workers who are eligible are given opportunity, so the CNMI has worked on that. He said the CNMI continues to work on building the Northern Marianas Technical Institute and other academies to prepare residents for construction job opportunities.

Regardless, Torres said he continues to advocate that the CNMI does not have enough workers here to do the many infrastructure projects, which also involves rebuilding the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant, hotels, businesses, pipelines, and so on.

It is his hope, Torres said, that the CNMI will not only have a good number of construction workers but also have an expedited process for CW-1 permits.

In his remarks last Feb. 1 before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Torres, through Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig, pushed for permanent allotment of 3,000 CW-1 permits to support construction activities in the CNMI. Torres wants the 3,000 permits to be separate from any presidentially-declared disasters in the CNMI.

At the annual Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting in Washington D.C. last Feb. 1, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) also called the attention of the Biden administration about the CNMI's need for sufficient labor to put the hundreds of millions of federal dollars to work building water and sewer systems, upgrading schools and medical facilities, hardening power production and delivery, and improving transportation.

Casting call for Miss Saigon in Guam

In honor of its fifth anniversary, the Guam Philharmonic Foundation Inc, in collaboration with World Theater Productions, will present the Tony award-winning, critically acclaimed musical *Miss Saigon* in Guam this fall 2022. The musical is a modern adaptation of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* about the timeless story of tragic love set in Vietnam around the fall of Saigon in April 1975.

In line with this, World Theater Productions is now accepting video auditions until March 31, 2022. Email your résumé, headshot, and audition video (link or file) to audition@wtpguam.com. Successful candidates will be invited for call backs.

The production also needs a pit chorus, orchestra musicians and dancers, and technical crew production management. Email your résumé to misssaigon@guamphilharmonic.org.

World Theater Productions, led by executive producer Margarita Dancel, has presented popular favorites like *Les Misérables School Edition, RENT, and Mamma Mia!* in Guam.

Miss Saigon is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency, Government of Guam, and the Office of the Governor and is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com. ***(PR)***

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

02/09/2022
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after February 28, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
CHCC Community Guidance Center Transitional Living Center and Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Center.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation: Community Guidance Center (CGC) is the single state agency for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Transitional Living Center under CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from Typhoon Yutu. The center requires replacement of doors, door jambs, door locks, painting of interior and exterior building and rooms. This includes electrical outlets, switches, light fixtures, and convert to LED lighting. The replacement of existing tins to new ones and replacement of existing wood truss in exterior balcony. The plumbing will have be redone according to code standards, replace toilets, toilet seats, showerheads, water valves, drain pipes for all bathroom and kitchen. Replace kitchen cabinets, sinks, and counters and install new ones.

The Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery (SATR) Clinic, is also a program within the CGC. The proposed rehabilitation is to repair damages from typhoon Yutu. The damages for repair include exterior and interior doors, door jambs, and door locks. They also include replacement of vinyl floor tiles on the first and second floors. Removal of existing water and sewer lines to conform to building code standards. Repair and replace bathroom walls, facets, lavatory, water closet, all ADA required updates including handle bars and door sizes. Removal and replacement of all damaged wood closets and paint. Replacement of all electrical conduits with weatherproof GFCI outlets for the exterior and new electrical outlets in the interior of the building. Replacement of all ceiling light fixtures interior and exterior. Removal and replacement of all electrical breakers and panels. Installation of typhoon shutters on all doors and windows. Repainting on interior and exterior buildings and rooms.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the Commonwealth Health Center Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic is an essential component that support individuals and families affected with substance abuse disorders with essential information and coping skills to pursue health, wellness, and recovery.

Location:
Gloria Dr., Navy Hill, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$710,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding
No other funding sources were identified

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by February 25, 2022, 4:00 p.m., will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Manglona, Camacho, Bogdan up for retention election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Associate Justice John A. Manglona and associate judges Joseph N. Camacho and Wesley M. Bogdan are up for retention election this Nov. 8 general election.

As of yesterday, Manglona, Camacho, and Bogdan have yet to indicate if they will seek retention.

A justice's term is eight years, while judges have six-year terms.

Camacho

Manglona

Bogdan

Manglona was an associate judge in the Superior Court from 1998 to 2000. In April 2000, then-governor Pedro P. Tenorio appointed Manglona to become an associate justice for the CNMI Supreme Court. At the November 2007 election, voters overwhelmingly voted for his retention as associate justice. At the November 2014 election, voters again overwhelmingly retained Manglona as associate justice. His term expires in 2024.

Camacho ascended to the Superior Court in November 2011. At the November 2016 election, Camacho was the only one who was up for retention. He received an overwhelming number of votes for his retention on the bench.

Bogdan officially assumed the post of associate judge in November 2017 after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed him to the bench.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

In 2002, Juan T. Lizama was the first judge in the CNMI to be retained on the bench.

Nat'l civil rights groups push for condemnation of Insular Cases

Twelve national civil rights organizations and Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico are calling on the Department of Justice to "reject the Insular Cases and the racist assumptions they represent."

Weare

In a letter sent on Feb. 10, 2022, they urged Attorney General Merrick Garland and Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar "to immediately cease relying on the Insular Cases in any present or future cases, and to publicly condemn the Insular Cases and the territorial incorporation doctrine."

"The…Justice Department should be ashamed to continue relying on the racist Insular Cases to defend the perpetuation of a colonial framework in U.S. territories," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the 3.5 million residents of U.S. territories—95% of whom are people of color. "I applaud these organizations for taking a stand in support of the idea that the federal government should no longer sanction the kind of racism and discrimination represented by the Insular Cases."

The full list of organizations joining the letter include the American Civil Liberties Union, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Ayuda Legal Puerto Rico, Brennan Center for Justice, Dēmos, Hispanic Federation, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates, and the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.

The letter highlights how the deputy solicitor general refused to say the Insular Cases were incorrectly decided when repeatedly pressed by Justice Neil Gorsuch during oral argument in United States v. Vaello Madero.

As the letter further explains, the Justice Department recently relied on the Insular Cases to argue against a right to citizenship in U.S. territories in Fitisemanu v. United States, a case brought by Equally American that is heading to the U.S. Supreme Court in the coming months. In Fitisemanu, a federal district court ruled that people born on U.S. soil in overseas territories have the same constitutional right to citizenship as people born on U.S. soil in the 50 states. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit reversed in a deeply divided 2-1 decision that included three separate opinions. The Justice Department relied on the Insular Cases to argue against review by the full 10th Circuit. In a scholarly 27-page opinion, two 10th Circuit judges rejected the arguments set forth by the Justice Department, including its reliance on the Insular Cases.

See INSULAR on Page 11

WHY DO WE TOLERATE THIS? CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This photo, taken by a concerned citizen, shows a man who usually begs from motorists at the corner of the Mobil/McDonald's and Lollipops on Beach Road in Garapan. The photo submission does not identify the person and has the subject head: Why do we tolerate this?

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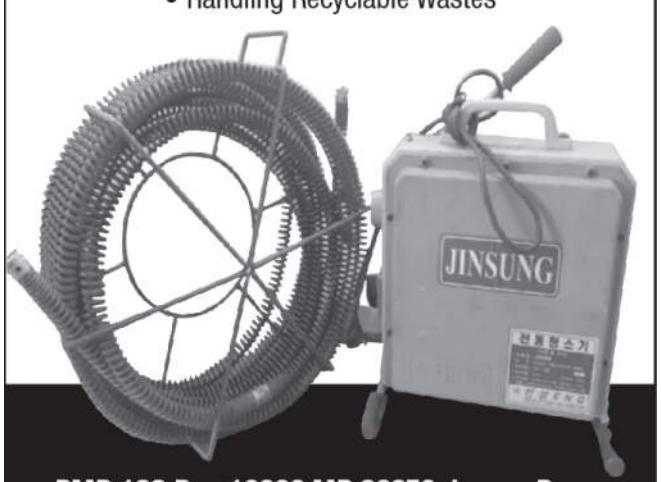

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US, Japan, South Korea meet in Hawaii to discuss North Korea

HONOLULU (AP)—U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met his Japanese and South Korean counterparts Saturday in Hawaii to discuss the threat posed by nuclear-armed North Korea after Pyongyang began the year with a series of missile tests.

Blinken said at a news conference after the meeting that North Korea was "in a phase of provocation" and the three countries condemned the recent missile launches.

"We are absolutely united in our approach, in our determination," Blinken said after his talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong.

He said the countries were "very closely consulting" on further steps they may take in response to North Korea, but didn't offer specifics.

The three released a joint statement calling on North Korea to engage in dialogue and cease its "unlawful activities." They said they had no hostile intent toward North Korea and were open to meeting Pyongyang without preconditions.

Hayashi later told Japanese reporters the three ministers had "very fruitful" discussion on the North. He declined to give details on additional measures they may take.

North Korea has a long history of using provocations such as missile or nuclear tests to seek international concessions. The latest tests come as the North's economy, already battered by decades of mismanagement and crippling U.S.-led sanctions, is hit hard by pandemic border closures.

Many see the tests as an attempt to pressure President Joe Biden's administration into easing the sanctions. The Biden administration has shown no willingness to do so without meaningful cuts to the North's nuclear program, but it has offered open-ended talks.

North Korea has rebuffed U.S. offers to resume diplomacy, saying it won't return to talks unless Washington drops what it says are hostile polices. The North bristles at both the sanctions and regular military exercises the U.S. holds with South Korea.

The tests also have a technical component, allowing North Korea to hone its weapons arsenal. One of the missiles recently tested—the Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile—is capable of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam. It was the longest-distance weapon the North has tested since 2017.

North Korea appears to be pausing its tests during the Winter Olympics in China, its most important ally and economic lifeline. But analysts believe North Korea will dramatically increase its weapons testing after the Olympics.

The recent tests have rattled Pyongyang's neighbors in South Korea and Japan. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who helped set up the historic talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and former President Donald Trump in 2018 and 2019, said last month that the tests were a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and urged the North to cease "actions that create tensions and pressure."

The Security Council initially imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006. It made them tougher in response to further nuclear tests and the country's increasingly sophisticated nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

China and Russia, citing the North's economic difficulties, have called for lifting sanctions like those banning seafood exports and prohibitions on its citizens working overseas and sending home their earnings.

Blinken arrived in Hawaii from Fiji, where he met with Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and other Pacific leaders to talk about regional issues, especially the existential risk posed by climate change. It was the first visit by a U.S. secretary of state to Fiji since 1985.

He started his Pacific tour in Australia, where he met his counterparts from Australia, India and Japan. The four nations form the "Quad," a bloc of Indo-Pacific democracies that was created to counter China's regional influence.

5TH

From Page 1

omicron cases in the CNMI.

Aside from scrapping on-arrival COVID-19 testing altogether, Muña said fifth day testing has now been made optional for vaccinated travelers.

"As this pandemic shifts, our strategies will also shift. We're no longer requiring testing on arrival. For vaccinated travelers, they must fill out a health declaration form but now, fifth day testing is optional," she said.

Muña said that both vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers must still fill out a health declaration form before entering the CNMI but, unlike vaccinated travelers, unvaccinated individuals will be given a registration code for fifth day testing.

"All travelers must fill out a health declaration form before they enter the CNMI. But unvaccinated travelers must test after five days. Once they register to fill out a declaration form, they will be given a code that registers them for fifth day testing," she said.

Lastly, vaccinated essential workers will no longer be quarantined but unvaccinated workers must fill out a quarantine application form before entering the CNMI.

"There is now an essential worker application form for quarantine but this only applies to unvaccinated workers. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine. Once they enter, they are free to leave and go to work," she said.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muna announces the CNMI's new entry protocols during a COVID-19 protocol forum last Friday at the Kensington Hotel Saipan. Behind her are the other panelists: From left to right, Patrick Guerrero, Warren Villagomez, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and Dr. Lily Muldoon.

According to Dr. Lily Muldoon, medical director of public health and CHCC emergency physician, the shift in protocols is to focus on medically significant community infections instead of border surveillance.

Muldoon said that, although focusing on blocking COVID-19 at the border worked in the beginning, considering that the CNMI now has a vaccination rate of 99% and the omicron variant is notorious for being more contagious than both the alpha and delta variants, the CNMI must now shift to focusing on treating severe cases and containment within the community.

"Omicron data suggests that omicron is less severe but it can still cause hospitalization. Because it is more contagious, if the spread is not contained, the CNMI risks overwhelming its healthcare system. We want to protect and not overwhelm our healthcare system," she said.

To date, there are five individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

For those experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, Muña and Muldoon encouraged them to visit the COVID-19 treatment sites located next to the Koblerville basketball court, or the MCATS tent located at CHCC.

Friday's event was attended by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, tourism and hotel industry stakeholders, several health officials, lawmakers, and municipal leaders, among others.

DAMAGE CONTROL TRAINING

Ensign Aaron Lee, from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, communicates via radio from a repair locker to Central Control Station during a damage control training team environment aboard USS New Orleans. New Orleans, part of the America Amphibious Ready Group, along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to enhance interoperability with allies and partners and serve as a ready response force to defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. NAVY/MCS1 DESMOND PARKS

NMI

From Page 1

count was based on the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI.

The vaccinatecnmi.com dashboard states that a total of 43,119 in the CNMI are now fully vaccinated, while a total of 44,335 have already had their first and single dose. Those who got booster shots total 20,248.

The 2020 Census placed the total CNMI population at 47,329.

This comes as the CNMI recorded a total of 569 new cases of COVID-19 across four days last week, bringing the CNMI total to 7,353 cases since March 26, 2020. The vaccination statuses of these 569 cases are pending verification.

CHCC first reported late Thursday 226 additional cases. Of that number, 223 were identified on Feb. 9 and three on Feb. 8, 2022. A total of 152 were identified via contact tracing and 74 via community testing. Three of the new cases were identified on Rota.

CHCC then reported last Friday an additional 189 cases, of which 180 were identified on Feb. 10, seven on Feb. 9, and two on Feb. 8, 2022. Of that number, 159 were identified via contact tracing and 30 via community testing. Eight of the new cases were identified on Tinian and one on Rota.

Rounding out the new cases were the 154 additional cases reported on Saturday, Feb. 12. Of the 154 cases,152 were identified on Feb. 11 and two on Feb. 9, 2022. A total of 90 were identified via contact tracing and 64 via community testing., Of the new cases, 13 were identified on Tinian and two on Rota.

CHCC assured that all affected individuals have been isolated and are being actively monitored.

As of Feb. 12, 2022, there were eight individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19, and one of them is on a ventilator.

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified Friday that Guam's 306th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Feb. 10, 2022. The patient was an 83-year-old male, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Feb. 6 and again on Feb. 10, 2022.

"Tonight we mourn another loved one lost to this deadly virus, and we are reminded that the fight is not yet over," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC new release. "To his family and friends, Jeff, Josh, and I extend our deepest sympathies and condolences during your time of grieving and sadness. To our community, we call on each of you to recommit to the public health interventions that have brought us to where we are today."

Of the total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, as of Feb. 11, 2022, there have been 5,286 recoveries; 2,044 active cases; and 23 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 648 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Feb. 11, 2022: 250 via Community-Based Testing; 389 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; and nine at the Rota Health Center. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MAN

From Page 1

to his injuries.

Individuals driving along Middle Road that night took to social media to share what they saw in an effort to spread awareness about the incident.

There have also been photos circulating on social media of an unidentified man lying lifeless just a few feet away from his bike along Middle Road.

According to an eyewitness, while driving along Middle Road last Saturday, she noticed the man just lying there and he looked "dead." Motorists drove around where his bike was seen lying on the road.

An individual who lived near where the incident happened told *Saipan Tribune* that they believe it was a hit-and-run because while passing by, they did not see any car parked nearby to assist the man, prompting them to call 911 for assistance.

Other individuals shared that traffic along Middle Road just past McDonald's was terrible that night because all four lanes were closed for over an hour.

INSULAR

From Page 3

The Fitisemanu plaintiffs have until March 27 to seek review by the Supreme Court. The Justice Department will have the opportunity to reassess its position when it responds to the petition for certiorari filed by the Fitisemanu plaintiffs.

"This letter is especially timely as the 100th anniversary of Balzac v. Porto Ric—the last of the Insular Cases—approaches on April 10. That would be an appropriate time for the Biden-Harris Justice Department to reject the Insular Cases as DOJ has other racist Supreme Court decisions," Weare said. ***(PR)***

GOP board meets with precinct leaders

The Republican Party of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands board of directors met with precinct leaders last Wednesday, Feb. 9.

Present at the meeting was Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres; CNMI GOP president Candace Celis, first vice president Pat Rasa, second vice president Shayne Villanueva, secretary Vivian Nogis, treasurer Ray Basa; Precinct 1 chair Jack Torres, Precinct 2 chair Martin Ada, Precinct 3 chair Jack Ogumoro, Precinct 4 chair Joe Quitugua, and Precinct 5 chair Gil Ada, senior adviser Vince DLG Torres, and campaign manager Wil Castro. Senior adviser Rufin Inos had a schedule conflict and was unable to attend.

"On behalf of first lady Diann and myself, we are truly blessed to work alongside so many new faces as well as avail ourselves of good counsel from proven winners over time. This is truly a dynamic group of precinct leaders," said Torres.

"The Republican Party is the party of inclusion. We have women, men, i manhoben, retirees, a strong women's group and leaders on Tinian, Rota, Guam and throughout the U.S. mainland [who] stand ready to rally behind a winning slate of qualified candidates," said Celis.

"Our ground game is rock solid. Our precinct and village leadership are intact. Our maps and support lists are ready, and we are coming," said Committee to Elect chair James Ada. "Governor Torres and lieutenant governor candidate [Vinnie Vinson] Sablan welcome an invitation to meet with community-based organizations, ethnic clubs, sport clubs, religious assemblies, clans and other organizations. They understand the importance of incorporating your ideas on how to improve the CNMI."

Ada thanks vice chair Ton Kapileo for his leadership while Ada was attending the Republican National Committee's Winter meeting this month.

For information on joining the movement to elect Torres-Sablan for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, and our entire Republican slate, contact Celis at cnmigop2022@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and first lady Diann Torres are joined by NMI Republican Party board members, precinct leaders, and other party officials during a meeting last Wednesday, Feb. 9.

3 Saipan students land on Hollins U dean's list

ROANOKE, VA—Three Saipan-born students have been named to Hollins University's dean's list for the fall 2021 semester.

The three students are Gedin Auria Cabrera, Dionne Torres, and Nina Lauren Valdisimo, all of them from Saipan.

To make it to the dean's list, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate education to women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. Founded in 1842 as Virginia's first chartered women's college, its distinctions include a nationally ranked creative writing program, one of the oldest study abroad programs in the country, and extensive internship opportunities. ***(PR)***

WHERE APPLICANT WAS NOT AT FAULT

'US Labor would waive recovery of any PUA/PFUC overpayments'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that the U.S. Department of Labor would waive recovery of unemployment benefit overpayments in cases where applicant was not at fault.

Sablan

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan, however, stated that cases of fraud will still be subject to action for recovery of overpayments.

According to U.S. Labor, when states waive recovery of overpayment, collection activities cease.

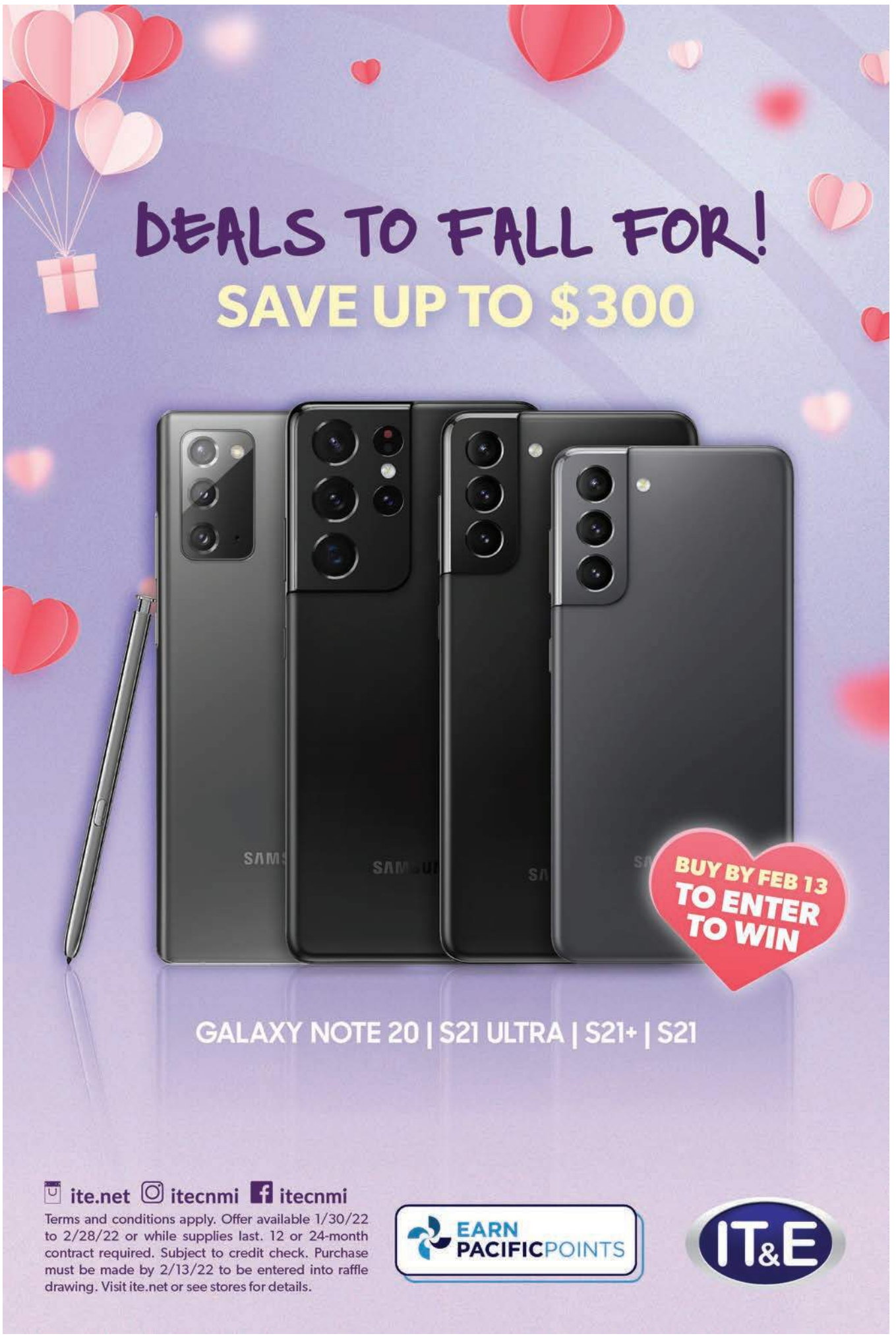
The delegate said that, in its announcement Monday, U.S. Labor outlined five scenarios in which an individual applying for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation would not be required to repay excess benefits.

The scenarios are the following:

- An individual responded "no" to being able and available for work and the state or territory failed to adjudicate the eligibility issue.
- An individual was eligible for payment, but was issued payment at a higher rate than entitled.
- ·The individual responded "no" to being unemployed, partially unemployed or unable or unavailable to work due to the approved coronavirus-related reasons, and the state or territory paid a benefit anyway.
- · The state or territory incorrectly calculated the weekly benefit amount.
- The individual submitted a proof of self-employment earnings and the stat e or territory incorrectly processed the information.

As of Jan. 15, 2022, unemployed individuals in the Marianas have received $261 million from the PUA and FPUC programs U.S. Congress created in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Last August, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente disclosed that they have traced $31.3 million overpayments in PUA, PFUC, and Lost Wages Assistance, and collected $28 million from such overpayments.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EARN PACIFICPOINTS
IT&E

IT&E moving to larger, more convenient site in Oleai

IT&E announced Friday that its store is moving to a larger and more convenient location in Oleai.

The Oleai store will open its doors on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2022. Hours of operation at the Oleai store will be 8:30 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday.

"We look forward to serving our subscribers in our new, larger store in Oleai. The new location is more conveniently located at the intersection of Middle Road and Monsignor Guerrero, making assistance and our service more easily accessible," said Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E CNMI.

Renovations began in November and the new store will feature a freshened look and an open-floor design.

IT&E is always looking for ways to better serve its customers. Also in November, the provider opened a payment center in Kada Dia Market in Chalan Kanoa to offer a quick and easy option for paying bills. The payment center is open 11am to 3:30pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Assistance is available 24/7 online at ite.net or by calling the Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4483 (4ITE). ***(IT&E)***

This Valentine's Day
show your love for the haggan.
Touching or going near turtles can get them used to humans which makes them vulnerable to poachers.
Don't support poaching. Don't buy, wear or eat anything that comes from a turtle or their eggs.
CNMI SEA TURTLE
CONSERVATION PROGRAM
We suggest holding the hand of your valentine instead of touching a turtle.
Getting your loved one jewelry NOT from sea turtles shows that you care about ocean life .
We need your help to protect sea turtles! Call our 24/7 hotline to report harassment, poaching, or strandings sea turtles in the CNMI. The number is 670-287-8537

FSM temporarily puts off withdrawal from PIR

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On Feb. 11, 2022, the Micronesian Presidents Summit convened virtually. The leaders, including David W. Panuelo, president of the Federated States of Micronesia, having discussed specific substantive reforms of the Pacific Island Forum and its leadership, and on the basis of consensus, have agreed to temporarily rescind their withdrawal from the Pacific Islands Forum, so as to materialize these reforms offered to the MPS by no later than June 2022.

The diplomatic note sent from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia to the Republic of Fiji on this matter may be found here: https://gov.fm/files/DFA- KAE-49-22_-_Pause_Denunciation.pdf. ***(PR)***

Public warned of high surf, rip currents

A high surf advisory is in effect with a high risk of rip currents until 7am Tuesday. A small craft advisory is also in effect until 6am today, Monday.

Hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet is expected along north facing reefs of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. The risk of rip currents will be high. Also, northeast winds of 15 to 20 knots with gusts up to 25 knots are present along Rota, Tinian and Saipan coastal waters until 6am today.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, hazardous swimming and surfing conditions will be present until 7am Tuesday. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water.

The public is warned to avoid venturing out toward north facing reefs. Elsewhere, swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

Inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid navigating in these conditions. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-018

LEASE AND DELIVERY OF MIDSIZE SUV VEHICLES FOR ADMINISTRATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease and delivery of midsize SUV vehicles for the CUC Administration in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-22-018, Lease and Delivery of Midsize SUV Vehicles for Administration"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 10, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 17, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Jenine Santos, CUC Purchasing Technician at Jenine.santos@cucgov.org, and Marcela Tenorio at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair**, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.

Fouha Crafts honored as 2021-2022 JA Guam Company of the Year

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Fouha Crafts team.

One hundred fifty high school students joined this year's Junior Achievement Guam competition, with seven student companies that stepped up to the challenge, which included in-school programs Tiyan High School team, Southern High School team, an Okkodu High School team, as well as teams mentored by partner companies: United Airlines, Title Guaranty of Guam, The Post, GTA, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Community First Guam, and Bank of Guam.

The Company of the Year competition kicked off in September 2021 and concluded with the Award Ceremony last Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, and was viewed live on the Junior Achievement Guam Facebook page from the GTA Experience Center, Tamuning.

Fouha Crafts, sponsored by Title Guaranty, won the 2021-2022 JA Guam Company of the Year edging out The Movement Guam, sponsored by United Guam, while GTA's The Amare Project finished in third place. The President of the Year was awarded to Mark Wang of Fouha Crafts as Grace Dela Cruz of The Amare Project settled for the second runner up with Sophia Espaldon, The Post's Gatbun Tinifok, who came in third.

In other categories, Gatbun Tinifok took home Product of the Year and United's The Movement Guam won Best Annual Report; Fouha Crafts notched top honors as the Best Business Video Presentation & Best Financial Management while Lending Hands was named Best TV Pop Up TV Commercial, and Bank of Hawaii's SPARK was named Best Trade Fair Display.

Vice President of Finance of the Year was awarded to Sebastian Lee of Fouha Crafts; VP Marketing of the Year was awarded to Ha'ani Sanchez from Serein, Tiyan High School; and VP Production went to Justin Joseph.

The 2021-2022 JA Guam Company of The Year and second runner up will represent Guam at the JA Asia Pacific's annual competition, which highlights the achievements of young entrepreneurs in 11 JA country members. The Program and Competition helps young people understand the role of business in the global economy by allowing students to organize and operate an actual business enterprise, and market and sell a product in the real world.

Junior Achievement Guam says it appreciates all the support from its community partners: GEDA, GRMC, the GCC DECA Marketing program, Bank of Hawaii, GEDA and Bank of Guam, SBDC, United, and GTA.

"We are thrilled to have been able to host our Annual Company of the Year Program in a hybrid format and during these challenging times. We are in gratitude of our very own executive director, Pinki Lujan, our company partners, our board members, the mentors, the judges and most especially the students who have worked tirelessly to make this program a success," said Joey Miranda III, JA Guam board chair. ***(PR)***

EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 10am on Feb. 13 2022, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.953°N 145.801°E in the Pagan region of the Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.9-magnitude quake south of Guam

At 12:10pm on Feb. 11, 2022, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 176 kilometers south of Merizo, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.4-magnitude quake near Merizo

At 7:20am on Feb. 11, 2022, a report of a 4.4-magnitude earthquake occurred 125 kilometers south southwest of Merizo Village in Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Trump removed, ripped up and flushed records. An investigation is warranted

It has become clear in recent days that former President Donald Trump mishandled official presidential documents to an astonishing and possibly illegal extent while in office. Multiple sources now indicate that after winning the presidency with a campaign in which he savaged Hillary Clinton for her mishandling of official emails, Trump improperly stored possibly classified material at Mar-a-Lago, tore up other documents that staffers then had to tape back together, and even clogged White House toilets by trying to flush documents—putting an absurdly literal new twist on the old Nixonian phrase "White House plumbers."

In light of all this (and speaking of Nixon), it's fair to be deeply suspicious about gaps now being discovered in White House records examined by the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Trump's penchant for tearing up paper to announce he's done discussing a topic has long been known, but the degree to which he indulged this childish habit is only now becoming clear. When the committee requested documents from the National Archives related to Trump's presidency, some of the documents had apparently been ripped up and taped back together.

This is an issue because the Presidential Records Act requires all records from every presidency to be saved and turned over to the National Archives when the presidency ends. It doesn't matter whether the thing being destroyed is a routine memo or a sensitive classified document. It belongs to the government. Destroying these things was plainly illegal, as Trump's staff repeatedly told him.

Now, the National Archives says Trump improperly took what may have been classified materials with him from the White House to his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida when he left office. The discovery came after Trump last month finally turned over 15 boxes of documents that weren't supposed to have left the White House and that the archives had been lobbying to get back.

On the heels of all that, a forthcoming book by *New York Times* reporter Maggie Haberman reveals that White House staff during Trump's presidency repeatedly found toilets clogged with paper, apparently documents Trump had attempted to flush. Trump on Thursday denied the account, but given his established history as both a prodigious liar and a habitual destroyer of records, his denial is hardly credible.

It is in the context of all this that the House Jan. 6 select committee this week discovered gaps in White House phone records during times when Trump was definitely making phone calls on that day. It is unclear whether that means Trump tampered with the records or was using a personal cellphone that would have kept records out of the hands of investigators.

Either way, the former president's utter contempt for the sanctity of official presidential records is an issue in and of itself. A formal investigation by the Justice Department of Trump's handling of documents is warranted.

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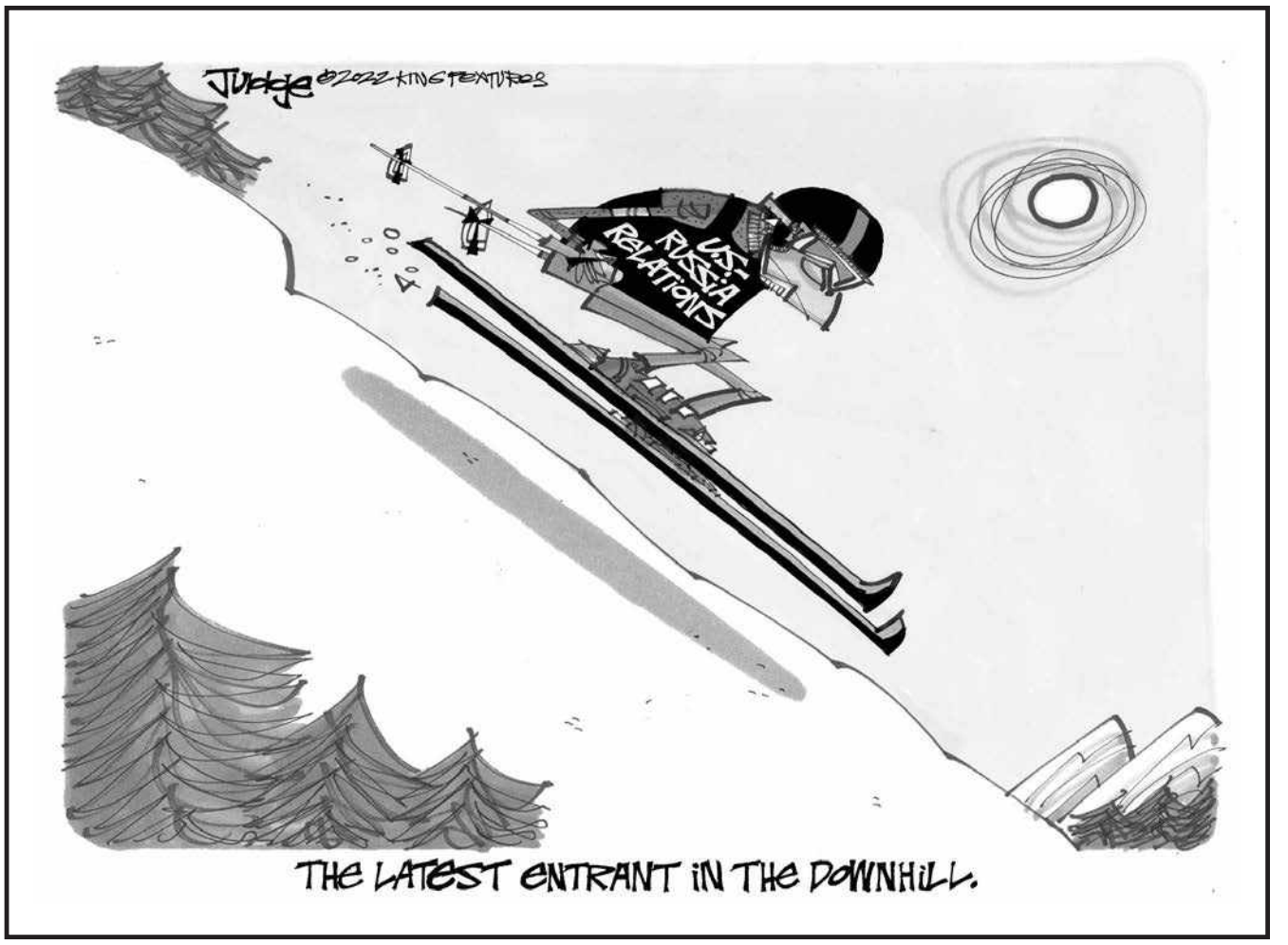


Sen. Susan Collins: A profile in cowardice

By JACKIE CALMES
Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times *in Washington, D.C.*

It took her three days, but Sen. Susan Collins finally criticized the Republican National Committee for its shameful resolution last week calling the insurrectionists of Jan. 6, 2021, "ordinary citizens engaged in legitimate political discourse."

That's "absurd," she said Monday.

Them's fighting words from the Maine Republican, who typically says she's simply "very concerned" about one Trumpian outrage or another. It's a routine that has justifiably turned Collins into a meme for feeble protest, and a figure of mockery on "Saturday Night Live."

But why pick on Collins? Most Republicans remained silent about the RNC resolution, which, to Donald Trump's delight, censured Reps. Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger for their anti-Trump but pro-democracy work on the House committee investigating the attack on the Capitol as Congress certified Joe Biden's victory.

Others, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, likewise waited days to react, until the controversy threatened to erode the party's edge in the midterm elections. And many supported the RNC action, including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, though he ran from an inquiring reporter rather than literally stand his ground.

So why pick on Collins? Because she promised more, and still purports to reflect a better politics. If the Collinses of the Republican Party won't lead in trying to break the grip of a self-aggrandizing, lying authoritarian, a healthier democracy is a pipe dream.

For 25 years in the Senate, Collins has held herself out as a force for reason, moderation, bipartisanship and norms. Yet for five years she has mostly been a sheep in Trump's flock, effectively enabling him and occasionally providing political cover for Republican men. She poses as the protege of Maine's famed former Sen. Margaret Chase Smith. Yet she's never gone to the Senate floor to deliver a "Declaration of Conscience," as Smith did in 1950—at some political price—against that earlier Republican demagogue, Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

In one of the earliest challenges to McCarthy's anticommunist witch hunt, Smith warned against "a Republican regime embracing a philosophy that lacks political integrity or intellectual honesty." Sound familiar? While 1950 also was a midterm election year, Smith insisted, "I do not want to see the Republican Party ride to political victory on the Four Horsemen of Calumny: Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear."

Compare that with Collins' wobbly stand this week. She objected to the RNC resolution not on principle but on politics: Every moment Republicans spend debating the 2020 election and the rioters' behavior, she said, "moves us further away from the goal of victory this fall."

Worse, last week Collins wouldn't rule out backing Trump's election in 2024 when she was pressed twice in a nationally televised interview—this after Trump, at a rally the night before, told cheering Texans that, if elected, he might pardon those charged in the Capitol siege.

"But let me say this," Collins assured ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, "I do not think the president should have made … that pledge to do pardons."

That's telling ol' Trump, senator. By the way, he's the former president.

Her profile in cowardice was especially jarring given Collins' vote a year ago to convict Trump for inciting the Capitol mob. Had he been convicted after that second impeachment, he would have been barred from seeking office again.

Collins has seesawed before. When Trump ran for president in 2016, she announced in a Washington Post op-ed that she would vote against him based on his unapologetic cruelty and bigotry. "Regrettably," she wrote, "his essential character appears to be fixed, and he seems incapable of change or growth."

Yet four years later, Collins decided Trump could change, despite all his abuses in office. She justified her vote to acquit him after his first impeachment—for extorting a foreign leader to find dirt on Biden—by saying he had learned his lesson: "I believe that he will be much more cautious in the future." He quickly proved her wrong.

That episode recalled her previous insistence that Brett M. Kavanaugh, as a Supreme Court justice, would respect court precedents and treat abortion rights as "settled law"—he'd told her so! She was either embarrassingly credulous or willfully misleading as she sought to justify her vote for him. He, too, is proving her wrong.

Unlike in 2016, before the 2020 presidential election Collins declined to say if she'd vote for Trump, telling a Maine newspaper, "I'm just not going to engage in political discussions at this point."

See COLLINS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Guam COVID-19 update

Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of the latest COVID-19 special address of Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, which was provided last Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022.

By LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero is the governor of Guam.

As we near the second year mark since this God-awful virus invaded our lives, it's important for us all to take a moment and simply breathe. Take stock of the hurdles you have overcome. Take time to feel the gratitude that gives purpose to our lives.

As we recalibrate ourselves, we also take time to recognize the terrible toll our island has suffered. This week, Guam's COVID-related deaths surpassed 300, and it is a moral imperative for us to give meaning to these monumental losses.

We join our community in mourning those we have loved and lost in this precarious time. *Man'åmko* who had lived full, fruit-bearing lives. Changemakers in the middle of their journeys. Young dreamers with the world ahead of them.

With determination to save more lives and balance our initiatives to rebuild Guam, we decisively met this omicron-driven surge with the support of all the health interventions available to us that are trusted and proven at preserving life.

Since January, we have performed more than 70,000 tests with an average of nearly 2,000 per day. Despite the national shortage, we continue placing orders for more test kits and have focused our efforts on a targeted approach.

Beginning today, Public Health has partnered with Joint Task Force 671 of the Guam National Guard to directly target the virus and protect at-risk communities from reaching concerning levels of transmission, as part of Operation Homebound.

Three teams consisting of a healthcare worker, combat medic, and interpreters have been mobilized to conduct home testing, vaccinations, and health assessments in communities of concern and underserved communities across our island.

Social workers will also be present to increase awareness and offer assistance in applying for Medicaid and Medicare insurance, and welfare, housing, and nutrition programs. These joint efforts are another tool added to Guam's COVID defense kit.

Beyond reaching out directly to underserved people, these mobile track, test, and treatment teams will help us better understand the health trends in populations that are unaware of the severe symptoms that could lead to a hospital trip or worse.

We know our health interventions are working. Masks help prevent spread of the virus. Vaccines and boosters help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

While COVID's impacts have varied, it has been our commitment to Wearing masks, Washing our hands, and Watching our distance—and getting vaccinated and boosted—that has made the greatest positive impact in securing our path forward.

Public Health experts tell us we are starting to see the end stage of the pandemic and at a recent meeting of the nation's governors, the consensus was that hope remains. We are beating COVID-19 and building a better future for us all.

Guam is getting through this and for doing your part, we cannot thank you enough.

LITERARY NOOK

She's My Valentine

By DAVID P CARROLL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

She's a very special lady
And she's one of a kind
And she's always on my mind
And she's in my heart and
She's in my soul
And she's truly one of a kind
And I'm sending her this
Beautiful love poem
Because I just wanted to say
I'm thinking of you sweetheart
On Valentine's Day.

COLLINS

From Page 8

What had changed? Trump had solidified control of their party like no president before him. In 2020, Collins was fighting for reelection herself, and was unwilling to alienate Maine's MAGA voters.

It turns out that Collins is little different from most politicians: She shies from stands that might threaten her career or political opportunities. Associates say she's rationalized her wimpy opportunism, confident that she represents her state and region well, and certainly better than some right-wing Republican or liberal Democrat who might replace her if she were voted out.

If Republicans win a majority in November, Collins is in line to be chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a career capstone that would let her bag billions more for Maine, maybe even get her name on some buildings. For that, however, she needs Republican senators' support. And as Cheney illustrates, one risks retribution by prominently renouncing Trump.

Yet as Cheney has said: "History is watching. Our children are watching." Collins (and other Republicans, too) should take heed, and think beyond the politics of the moment.

After all, we wouldn't even remember her predecessor had Margaret Chase Smith not acted seven decades ago in the nation's interest, rather than her own.

Am I underpaid? Too often, younger workers don't know

By SARAH GREEN CARMICHAEL
BLOOMBERG OPINION

One goal of New York City's new salary transparency law is to close the persistent pay gap between men and women. By requiring companies that are hiring to post salary ranges with job descriptions, the theory goes, applicants will have more information on what a certain job is worth and more leeway to negotiate for the best offer. This, in turn, may finally boost the salaries of women and people of color to be more in line with those of white men.

I hope the law does help close these pay gaps. I also hope it helps another group of people: younger workers.

As it stands, too many young people are fumbling around in the dark when it comes to making informed decisions about what to study in school and which jobs to pursue upon graduation. If many of them are clueless, it's only because clues are so hard to find.

Online databases like Fairygodboss and Glassdoor have tried to fill the data void by collecting crowdsourced data on salaries, but this approach has limitations; it isn't always clear where these jobs are based, how many years of experience they require or what sorts of responsibilities they include. The same job title can mean wildly different things at different organizations. And it's tough to know how trustworthy self-disclosed numbers are.

The result of the information vacuum is that few of us have any idea whether we're paid fairly—even if we have years of experience in the workforce. While this most obviously applies to those who are underpaid, the overpaid can also be misled in a different way.

In a 2021 Payscale survey, half of workers who were paid at or above average wrongly believed they were underpaid. In a 2015 study, only 21% of overpaid workers realized they were paid above market rates. Such employees needlessly suffer more from low morale than those who have an accurate understanding about how well they're compensated.

Being highly educated doesn't protect one from grossly miscalculating what other people make. When a Wharton professor, Nina Strohminger, asked her class of future business titans to estimate the average American salary, a quarter of them thought it was over six figures, and one thought it was $800,000 a year. The real figure? $45,000.

Such compensation delusions are widespread, on both ends of the income scale. An influential study by Sorapop Kiatpongsan and Michael Norton showed most people have no idea how much CEOs earn. Survey respondents guessed CEOs earned about 30 times as much as an average worker. In fact, CEOs earn vastly more—350 times as much.

Clearly, we don't know how the other quintile lives. But it should be obvious by now that we don't really know how much people in our own socioeconomic bracket earn, either.

New York City's new law aims to fix this by requiring the salary range to be included in the job description. This makes it different from other U.S. laws with similar goals. Other localities require salary ranges to be disclosed to, for example, current employees upon request or to applicants who have gotten past the first-round interview. That keeps the information out of the public eye. New York's law throws the door open to anyone curious about a particular career path.

While salary befuddlement knows no age, it is particularly costly for workers who are just starting out. The first 10 years of one's career are crucial for wage growth. It can take a decade to recover from the bad luck of graduating into a recession.

While older workers have bigger, broader networks—and thus might be able to research salary options by asking around—younger workers without those contacts are more likely to be operating in the dark. That's especially true of those who are the first in their families to go to college, or whose parents aren't great networkers themselves, or in families where talking about money is taboo.

Personal finance gurus blithely advise young grads to "do your research" before making any major decisions, ignoring how difficult this data is to find. Business majors may be surprised to learn how little they can command, with an average base salary of just $47,850, according to Glassdoor data. That puts them squarely between students of fashion design and international relations, and not that far ahead of those famously low-paid degree-holders, philosophy majors.

And how is one supposed to know if graduate school is a worthy investment without having a clear idea of what the return might be? It is not surprising to learn that film school doesn't pay off. But there are lots of jobs that require or strongly encourage postgraduate degrees—teacher, museum curator, therapist, librarian and speech pathologist, to name a few—that don't pay a whole lot in salary. Even lawyers and doctors can struggle to pay off their grad school debt.

By providing more granular data—the kind that comes from job postings, not entry-level base salary averages—New York's new law could also encourage young people to follow their passions, by reassuring them that some jobs are not as low-paid as they've been led to believe. For example, many aspiring writers were pleasantly surprised to learn last week that a travel writer can earn six figures when one spontaneously disclosed her salary.

Clearing up compensation confusion could have broader implications for the economy as a whole. If a free market is to operate, well, freely, then workers need a certain amount of information.

In a recent NBER paper, low-paid workers tended to assume they wouldn't earn much more by switching jobs. But administrative data on workers who did change jobs showed these beliefs were mistaken. "If workers had correct beliefs," they estimate, between 10% and 17% of low-wage jobs "would not be viable." Low-paying employers relied on these workers staying uninformed.

When employers start sharing salary ranges on their job postings, it does a lot more than tell potential hires what a job is worth. It gives those starting out in their careers more information about the trajectory they might expect. And it has the potential to shine more daylight into the dark corners of the economy.

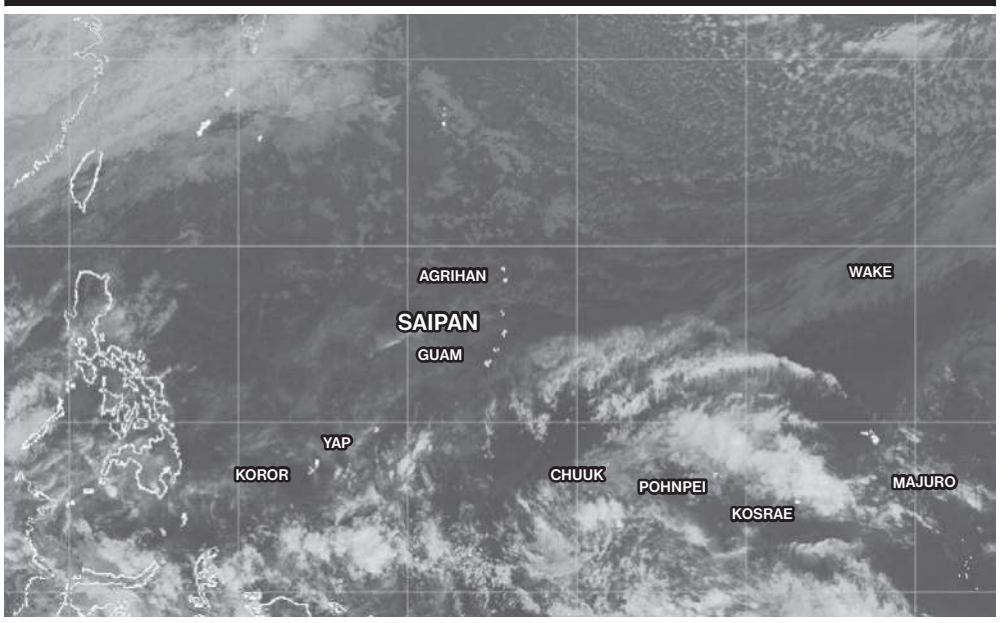
Sarah Green Carmichael is an editor with Bloomberg Opinion. *She was previously managing editor of ideas and commentary at Barron's, and an executive editor at Harvard Business Review, where she hosted the HBR Ideacast.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
85º / 75º	85º / 74	85º / 76º	86º / 75º	86º / 75º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:43 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Observations are reporting a few peak winds this morning. VAD wind and morning sounding data indicate 23 knots at the BL. Expect frequent gusts to 25 knots through tonight as per model guidence.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	28 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	AM Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:42 AM	18:20 PM
Tuesday	06:41 AM	18:20 PM
Wednesday	06:41 AM	18:21 PM
Thursday	06:40 AM	18:21 PM
Friday	06:40 AM	18:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	04:47PM	16:13 PM
Tuesday	-	05:35 PM	17:07 PM
Wednesday	-	06:21 PM	18:00 PM
Thursday	-	07:03 PM	18:53 PM
Friday	-	07:43 PM	19:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	23 / 15 °F
Beijing	Mostly Clear	0 / 11 °F
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	19 / 15 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	26 / 20 °F
London	Showers	9 / 3 °F
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	26 / 12 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	32 / 24°F
Melbourne	Sunny	31 / 17 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	21 / 18 °F
New York	Partly Cloudy	-1 / -7 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	11 / 2 °F
Paris	Showers	11 / 5 °F
Busan	Partly Cloudy	12 / 1°F
Rome	Showers	15 / 11 °F
Salem	Sunny	15 / 1 °F
San Francisco	AM Clouds/PM Su	13 / 9 °F
Seoul	PM Light Rain	7 / -8 °F
Tokyo	AM Clouds/PM Sun	9 / 1 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	2 / -7 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
12:24 AM	Low Tide	-0.26
07:47 AM	High Tide	1.56
12:57 PM	Low Tide	1.06
5:39 PM	High Tide	1.56

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2)
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	3, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Coast Guard, Navy complete channel widening in FSM

SANTA RITA, Guam— Crews from the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Forces Micronesia | Sector Guam improves navigation safety in Kapingamarangi Atoll.

The Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* carried members from the Navy's Underwater Construction Team-2 to widen the shoal channel on Dec. 4-8, 2021, which had narrowed due to marine overgrowth.

In close coordination with FSM national government, Pohnpei state, and Kapingamarangi Atoll leaders, the Coast Guard and Navy teams used controlled explosive dredging techniques. The targeted area for removal was roughly 10,000 square-feet and took approximately 6,500 lbs of explosives to clear over the course of four days.

"I am proud of the efforts of our crew and the UCT-2 crew in completing this challenging mission," said Cmdr. Ryan Adams, commanding officer of the *Sequoia*. "This channel widening will allow merchant vessels to more easily navigate the island, which will provide vital supplies to more than 300 residents who call Kapingamarangi home."

"…The widening of the channel will now improve accessibility for commerce and emergency situations especially when responding to natural disasters," said U.S. Ambassador Carmen G. Cantor.

Additionally, crewmembers from the *Sequoia* and the UCT-2 detachment delivered approximately 1,700 gallons of bottled drinking water to the residents of Kapingamarangi while deployed to the island. The water was provided by the Ayuda Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Guam. All water was delivered to a remote drop site under a no-contact policy due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. (***USCG)***

U.S. COAST GUARD/SEQUOIA

A plume of water shoots skyward following an underwater detonation in support of channel widening operations at Kapingamarangi Atoll in the Federated States of Micronesia last Dec. 5, 2021.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 4, 2021, Anthony Alepuyo and Jesselyn B. Dris-Alepuyo, immediate family members of Roger Dris, employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Roger Dris is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 30, 2021, Janessa C. Santos, an immediate family member of Kristian Santos, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Kristian Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, April 23, 2021, Joey A. San Nicolas, an immediate family member of Patrick H. San Nicolas, a Congressman for the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Patrick H. San Nicolas is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, Joseph E. Santos, a Chairman for the 18th Tinian Municipal Council, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Joseph E. Santos is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, June 18, 2021, Thomas K. Sablan, an immediate family member of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 8, 2021, Thomas S. Sablan and Emy R. Sablan, immediate family members of Remedio Reyes, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Remedio Reyes is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Business

Mommyla Spa and Salon opens today

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mommyla Spa and Salon in Garapan will be opening its doors today, just in time for Valentine's Day, to offer unique beauty and wellness services at reasonable prices in an environment where the health and safety of its customers are its utmost priority.

For now, Mommyla offers hair care that includes haircut, coloring, treatment, hair extension etc. nail care , skin care, massage, and make-up. In the pipeline are eyebrow microblading and eyelash extensions. The salon welcomes you with vibrant colors balanced with light tones and furniture that invites you to relax and regain your energy.

General manager Debralyn David Santos said the vision for Mommyla is to be a full-service spa and salon where everyone feels comfortable and welcome. "Our services will be affordable because our mission is to give customer satisfaction by giving excellent service and great salon experience. … We adhere to the health and safety protocols in the CNMI so people will not hesitate allotting time for self-care," Santos added.

Mommyla is located beside Salty's Bar and Grill in Garapan, right in front of

See MOMMYLA on Page 13

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mommyla Spa and Salon management, employees, and guests pose for a souvenir picture at their soft opening early this month. In photo are 2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Crystal Fiona Rio, general manager Debralyn David Santos, president and proprietress Marlyn Doughtery, general manager of Pacific Marine Enterprises Danilyn David, hair and make-up stylist Sharmaine Casquero and event host co0rdinator and consultant Hapi Gabriel

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 Ana C. Sablan, an immediate family member of Gregorio C. Sablan, a member of the US House of Representatives, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Gregorio C. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Thursday, May 13, 2021, Janelle A. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jacob Muna, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Jacob Muna is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 Jerald P. Cabrera, an immediate family member of Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mrs. Jatanna C. Atalig-Hocog is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Monday, March 15, 2021, Maribel D. Igitol, an immediate family member of Marciana Igitol, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Marciana Igitol is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Friday, March 12, 2021, Soledad M. Cepeda, an immediate family member of Jennifer C. Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Jennifer C. Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp
Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, March 02, 2021, Tasha S. Cruz, an immediate family member of Francisco Q. Cruz, Senator for the Second Senatorial District of the CNMI, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Francisco Q. Cruz is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

MOMMYLA

From Page 12

the ocean. This makes it the perfect spot to unwind and get pampered, said Santos. "What makes us unique is that our location is right at the beachfront—blue ocean, nice breeze, and away from the busy road. This is perfect for relaxation and with any of our services, it is easy to feel pampered. It is like a mini-vacation or escape from work or school," Santos said.

The name Mommyla is a portmanteau of the words "mommy" and "lola," which is the Filipino term for grandmother. Santos explained that they came up with the name because the company's president and proprietress, Marlyn Dougherty of Mommyla, is fondly known in the community as everybody's mommy, and is known for her friendliness and warmth.

"We do not only want to project warmth and care in our business name but also in the many services we offer. …We have spa and salon services for now and in the future, we intend to offer barber services and retail. We intend not only to target women but all demographics because of the array of services we have," said Santos.

2021 Miss Earth Northern Marianas Crystal Fiona Rio, who was at the soft opening of Mommyla early this month, said that going to Mommyla for self-care needs is what most women, especially mothers, need. "Whether it's escaping a stressful job for the day, leaving the mommy duties to someone else for a few hours or just the need to let to let off a little steam, give yourself a bit of much needed loving attention at Mommyla," she said. "No matter what state of physical or mental condition you find yourself in through all different periods of your hectic life, find time to relax, unwind and pamper yourself with one of the beauty treatments at Mommyla. …There's all these positive and happy vibes when you feel beautiful inside and out."

Santos said that they want every client to have a memorable visit at Mommyla. "From the moment they walk into our salon, we want them to feel happy, pampered, relaxed and go home satisfied with the service(s) they experienced. Mommyla is borne out of passion and this is the same passion we want to give back to the community through quality service and care."

Mommyla Spa and Salon is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 588-1960 or look them up on Facebook: Mommyla Spa and Salon.

BEA CABRERA

Mommyla Spa and Salon general manager Debralyn David Santos and consultant Hapi Gabriel welcome everyone to try their treatments and services

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Dongxing Corporation (the corporation) intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: gulin7899198@gmail.com or call 670-989-8810
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

DONGXING CORPORATION
Garapan, Saipan MP 96950
670-989-8810

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-005	Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors	$30,000.00-$40,000.00 per annum- UNGRADED	Jan. 27, 2022	Feb. 16, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Franklin T. Sablan and Dolores B. Sablan, immediate family members of Melvin M. Sablan, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Melvin M. Sablan is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-DOL/WIA-42200076

SUBMISSION DATE: February 24, 2022 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"SYMMETRICAL BANDWIDTH INTERNET SERVICE CONNECTION OF 100 Mbp DOWN AND 100 Mbps UP FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. FRANCES A. TORRES, AT THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AT (670) 664-1758.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VICKY BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, Janella M. Babauta, an immediate family member of Oscar M. Babauta, a board member of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Oscar M. Babauta is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
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Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, Mary M. Sablan, an immediate family member of Doraine Camacho, an employee of NMHC, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Ms. Doraine Camacho is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before Monday, February 14, 2022.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhcgov.net.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2022.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

By DR. ANDREW GARNER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

How can parents show love and care to children on Valentine's Day and every day?

Q: What are some ways to show emotional support and love to children and to have quality time as a family?

A: Receiving love, care and emotional support is vital for children—on Valentine's Day and every day. This is especially important as we deal with the continuing stress and challenges of the pandemic. Here are several ways to show that you care and to come together as a family:

■ Hold time together dear: Mark game nights or other family activities on your calendar so everyone can look forward to enjoying time together. With winter weather and COVID-19 restrictions, use this extra time at home to play together and to connect as a family. Also be sure to carve out one-on-one time with each of your children regularly to do something they enjoy. Put away cellphones, tablets and other devices during these special times and really focus on each other.

■ Have heart-to-heart conversations: Ask your child "How was your day?" and actively listen to the answer. If they tell you about a challenge they are facing, let them finish the story before helping them to solve their problem. Many kids are having a tough time as they deal with school closings and time away from friends who might be sick. If you see signs of anxiety or depression, talk with your pediatrician.

■ Share your love of reading: Start reading to your child beginning in infancy. Many studies show that reading together strengthens parent-child bonds and promotes positive parenting. Plus, when you read to or with your child, you help them build a foundation for success in school, which is linked to long-term wellness.

■ Take a deep breath, then hug: When your child is angry or grouchy, try not to take it personally! Calm your own emotions first, perhaps by taking a deep breath, and then give a hug, pat, or other sign of affection. Once they are also calm and feeling better, consider talking with them about the event and how they might better manage those strong emotions the next time.

■ Discipline with love: Use positive, nonviolent discipline. Harsh physical and verbal punishments don't work and can damage long-term physical and mental health. From an early age, lay out clear and consistent rules that your children can understand. Give praise when they follow them—not just punishment when they don't. Calmly explain consequences and follow through right away when rules are broken.

■ Choose words with care: Use plenty of positive and encouraging words when talking with your child. Model consideration and gratitude yourself by saying "please" and "thank you." Skip the sarcasm, mockery and put-downs, even if you are teasing. Children often don't understand your purpose. Even if they do, these messages can harm self-esteem and create negative ways of talking and connecting with each other.

■ Let them know you're there: Respond promptly and lovingly to your child's physical and emotional needs. Be available to listen when your child wants to talk, even if it's not the best time for you.

■ Forgive mistakes, including your own: If you lose your cool and react harshly to your child, apologize and explain how you will handle the situation in the future. Be sure to keep your promise. Also forgive yourself. No one is perfect. Understanding how to forgive is important for your child to accept their own mistakes, and it builds confidence and resilience.

■ Cook and eat together: One of the best ways to teach your children about good food choices and enjoy each other's company is to cook together. Involve them in the entire process, from planning the menus to shopping for ingredients to preparing and serving the meal. Family meals are a great opportunity to talk and connect. Put away any electronic devices, including your own cellphone.

■ Foster friendships: Help your child develop positive relationships with friends, siblings and members of the community. Teach them about the value of kindness. Encourage your child to be involved in activities that require teamwork, such as sports. Get to know your child's friends and talk about responsible and respectful relationships.

■ Embrace health and safety: Show how much you care by taking your children to the doctor regularly for well-child care visits. Get them caught up on recommended immunizations to protect them against infectious diseases. Teach them how to help avoid injuries, provide a healthy and nutritious diet, and encourage plenty of sleep and exercise to help them grow healthy and strong. A good place to start is by using seat belts or car seats every time you are in a vehicle.

■ Share these words without limit: Say "I love you" to your children on Feb. 14 and many more times as they grow up. They are never too old to hear it.

Healthy Living

Cutting cancer risk

Eating cruciform vegetables, such as cabbage, may reduce the risk of lung cancer.

Meet the cruciforms

Contain isothiocyanate chemicals, which protect against lung cancer

- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cauliflower

Source: The Lancet, TNS Photo Service

Life & Style

Bieber wows A-list crowd at pre-Super Bowl 'Homecoming'

This combination of photos shows, from left, Lil Baby, Justin Bieber, Drake, Miley Cyrus and Blake Shelton, who are among the performers playing shows ahead of the Super Bowl between Los Angeles Rams and Cincinnati Bengals. AP

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Justin Bieber can leave even a room full of elite athletes, actors and A-listers star struck.

The invite-only guests at Friday's first of two nights of a Super Bowl-week party dubbed "Homecoming Weekend" crushed around a small stage-in-the-round under a tent at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, California to get close to Bieber, who hopped, bopped and shimmied through a 45-minute set as the evening's headliner.

The crowd included Jeff Bezos, his girlfriend TV host Lauren Sánchez, "Hamilton" actor Anthony Ramos and NFL Hall-of-Famer Tony Gonzalez.

Most of the hands around the stage were holding phones in the air and filming. Some gleeful fans turned around to shoot selfies with Bieber, who wore a a black skullcap, shades, a white hoodie and a sparkling necklace as he boogied in the background.

With a spare five-piece band, the 27-year-old pop star played a set that leaned heavily on recent songs, including "Somebody," "Hold On," "Ghost," and "As I Am," with a few nods to the past, like 2015's "What Do You Mean?"

He stood at a keyboard to play an earnest electric-piano intro to "Peaches" before getting back to the dancing.

Bieber kept the songs flowing, and kept the between-song banter to a minimum.

"You guys having a good night?" he said at one point. "You guys rooting for the Rams?"

Despite the free food and top-shelf spirits being served, the outdoor patios were mostly empty as everyone jammed into the tent to watch Bieber.

Proof of vaccination was required of the 1,500 guests. Few wore masks.

It was one of a week full of entertainment events leading up to Sunday's Super Bowl at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, the first in the Los Angeles area in nearly three decades, with the hometown Los Angeles Rams playing the Cincinnati Bengals.

Night one also included a DJ set from Marshmello. Drake is set to perform on night two.

The event, presented by The h.wood Group, REVOLVE, PLACES.CO and Uncommon Entertainment, was themed on a high school homecoming.

Dave Chappelle says he didn't oppose affordable housing

YELLOW SPRINGS, Ohio (AP)—Comedian Dave Chappelle said his threat to pull the plug on his plans to open a comedy club near his hometown in Ohio wasn't because he opposed a proposal for affordable housing in a nearby development.

Chappelle, who became the target of criticism this week after speaking against the development in Yellow Springs, said in a statement that the plan was not the right fit for the village.

"Dave Chappelle didn't kill affordable housing. Concerned residents and a responding Village Council 'killed' a half-baked plan which never actually offered affordable housing," said Carla Sims, a spokesperson for Chappelle.

Chappelle was among several residents who spoke against the project at a council meeting Monday the Dayton Daily News reported.

Usher performs classic hits at star-studded Chairman's Party

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Usher preached togetherness during "tumultuous times" while performing a series of his hits at an exclusive star-studded afterparty following the NFL Honors.

The eight-time Grammy winner spoke about the importance of unity during the Chairman's Party on Thursday night inside SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California. He went on to perform several of his classics from "My Boo" to "Yeah!" on the BET Network stage at The Canyons, an open-air location within the stadium's footprint.

"It's a very important time when all of us need hope," the R&B singer said in front of the many guests who flowed into the afterparty with several high-profile stars in attendance, including Issa Rae, Cedric the Entertainer, Rita Ora and Keegan-Michael Key, the host of NFL Honors. Attendees had an early look at the site of the Super Bowl with some given the opportunity to take photos on the field.

"These games have meant so much," he continued. "The league has had its moments during these tumultuous times. Now, with us being all together in this room and stadium together, it's the purpose of hope."

With a band playing behind him, Usher kept the energy high while performing upbeat jams including "Caught Up," "DJ Got Us Fallin' in Love," "OMG" and "You Make Me Wanna."

The singer told the crowd that his performance is only the beginning to an "incredible weekend."

Kodak Black reportedly among 4 shot outside Super Bowl party

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four people were shot and wounded early Saturday after a fight broke out outside a Los Angeles restaurant hosting a party that followed a Justin Bieber concert, police said.

The gunfire erupted outside The Nice Guy restaurant, striking and injuring four men ages 60, 22, 20 and 19, LAPD Officer Lizeth Lomeli said. Their names were not released, but NBC News reported rapper Kodak Black was among the wounded.

Officers who responded to the scene found two victims. Paramedics took them to the hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries, police said in an updated statement Saturday afternoon.

Two additional victims went to hospitals on their own, according to the statement. All four victims were listed in stable condition.

Detectives asked witnesses to come forward to help them identify the gunman.

Videos posted on TMZ.com and on social media show Black posing for photos with a group of people outside the restaurant when the brawl broke out. Black is among several people involved in the brawl when shots rang out, sending everyone at the scene running for cover.

Grandmother upset with girl's clothing choices

DEAR ABBY: From time to time, I pick my granddaughter up from public school. This week, I picked her up on Tuesday and again on Friday. Both days, she was wearing the exact same outfit, a shirt/hoodie that was too small and hand-me-down jeans that were too big. On Tuesday, when my son came to get her (Mom wasn't with him), I told him I didn't like the jeans and the shirt/hoodie was ill-fitting. He said he thought the jeans looked fine.

Abby, I have bought many clothes for my granddaughter, and I know she should have other options. I've always been under the impression that "No matter what you have, you always put your best foot forward." For reference, my son leaves home by 5:30 in the morning, and her mom takes her to school. Am I wrong to want to chastise my son and his wife for this? I sincerely think they are doing the child a disservice by allowing her to go to school this way.

PERPLEXED GRANDMA IN TEXAS

DEAR GRANDMA: I wish you had mentioned how old your granddaughter is. Children these days choose their own outfits without help from their parents or input from their grandmothers. Your sense of style may be very different from your granddaughter's. This may be what the other students wear, and she doesn't want to be "different." Most important is not what she's wearing, but whether she's clean and well-groomed. I sincerely hope you refrain from "chastising" your son and daughter-in-law about this because I can guarantee it won't be appreciated.

DEAR ABBY: My wife doesn't like the gifts I bought her. I got her an Apple Watch for her birthday, which is two days after Christmas. The only model they had in stock was the SE, which is a fine watch. If they'd had the Series 7, I'd have bought it because I know how she is. Of course, she "had" to look up the price, which was $120 less than the Series 7.

After spending $700 on designer bags for her for Christmas, buying her a dozen other things and an Apple Watch, she had the audacity to call me cheap! I am deeply hurt. I tried to talk to her about it, but she says I'm being overly sensitive. For what it's worth, she got me nothing for Christmas. What to do here?

NOT THANKED IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT THANKED: It appears you married a demanding "material girl." Someone—you, perhaps—should point out that looking up the cost of a gift and calling the giver "cheap" is beyond rude. At the least, she owes you an apology.

As to "what to do here," in future seasons of giving, I wouldn't blame you if you were less generous with your selfish, ungrateful wife and closed your wallet.

DEAR READERS: On this Day of Love, I want you to know how much I cherish the relationship I have with you. Wishing a Happy Valentine's Day to all of you.

LOVE, ABBY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

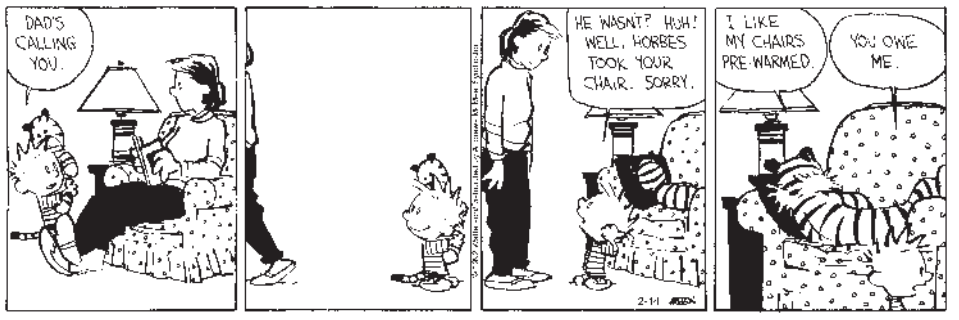
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

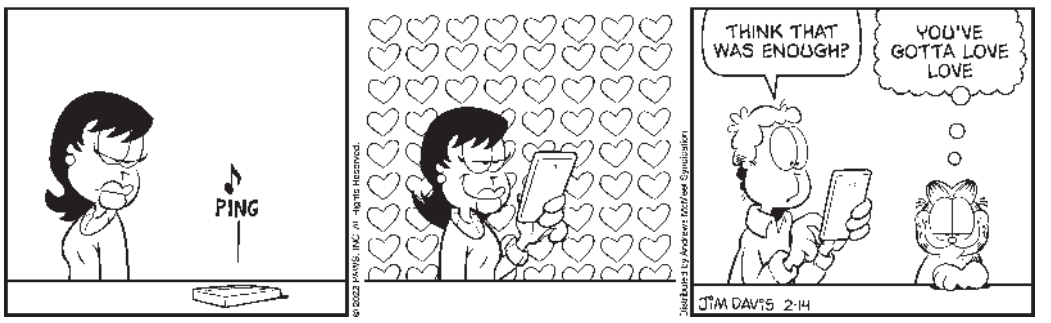
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



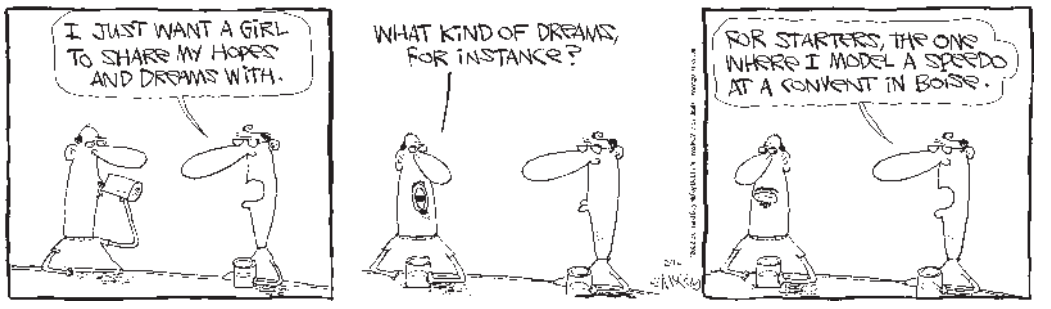
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DO YOU HAVE A VALENTINE?
PSSH!
WHO NEEDS ONE?
I'VE GOT MY NEW BOBA FETT LEGO SET. THAT'S ALL I NEED.
SO, YOU DON'T WANT THESE CHOCOLATES?
I DO NOT. BOBA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS A BIT OF A SWEET TOOTH.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I JUST WANT A GIRL TO SHARE MY HOPES AND DREAMS WITH.
WHAT KIND OF DREAMS, FOR INSTANCE?
FOR STARTERS, THE ONE WHERE I MODEL A SPEEDO AT A CONVENT IN BOISE.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 — -Magnon
4 Acquired
7 Help a hood
11 Sandwich bread
13 Central point
14 Reply to "Shall we?"
15 Shakespearean villain
16 Submachine gun
17 Onion's kin
18 "Well done!"
20 Twistable treat
22 Goof up
24 Misgivings
28 Churchill portrayer on "The Crown"
32 Boutique
33 Bailiwick
34 "— the ramparts ..."
36 "Closer" actor Clive
37 Chili con —
39 Perplexed
41 Puzzle
43 Indian lentil dish
44 Leak slowly
46 Took a siesta
50 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
53 City region, for short
55 Quite
56 Capri, for one
57 Filch
58 One of HOMES
59 Indigent
60 Computer key
61 Switch positions

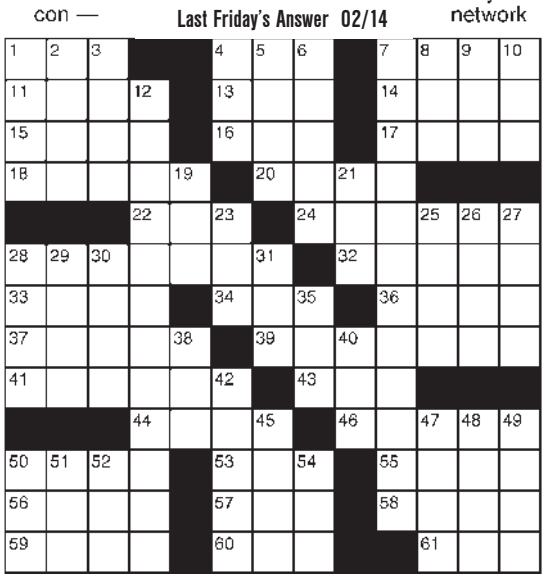
DOWN

1 First bed
2 Lion's greeting
3 "Three Sisters" sister
4 Bearded antelope
5 Greek liqueur
6 Sporty Ford
7 Song by Air Supply
8 Garden buzzer
9 Montreal summer
10 "For shame!"
12 Song by Diana Ross
19 Assoc.
21 Dawn goddess
23 Kanga's kid
25 Soup serving
26 Genealogy chart
27 Email command
28 Lingerie trim
29 Persia, today
30 Actress Hatcher
31 Spider's creation
35 "Awesome, dude!"
38 Punk rock offshoot
40 Passing craze
42 Sky blue
45 Cupid's alias
47 Nada
48 Activist Brockovich
49 Salon jobs
50 Balm target
51 Equi-
52 "Evil Woman" band
54 Telly network

Solution time: 26 mins.

M	A	J	A	M		M	A	H		S	P	F	
E	N	E	R	O		O	B	I		H	A	L	
D	E	C	A	L		H	E	M	L	I	N	E	
		L	L	A	M	A	S		U	R	I	S	
A	R	I		R	A	W		P	A	T	C	H	
R	A	N			S	K	F	I	N				
C	H	E	A	P	O		S	E	D	O	N	A	
			S	F	N	A	T		A	F	A	R	
B	E	A	S	T		S	E	C		F	E	E	
E	D	G	E		S	P	R	A	W	L			
G	A	G	L	I	N	E		D	O	I	L	Y	
T	M	I		R	O	N		E	R	N	I	E	
O	S	E		A	B	S		T	E	E	N	S	

Last Friday's Answer 02/14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 50; Simon Pegg, 52; Meg Tilly, 62; Terry Gross, 71.

Happy Birthday: Simplicity, targeted thoughts and calculated moves will take you on a journey that helps you sort through the baggage that stands in your way. Rid yourself of anything that holds you back, and map out a course that will take you in a direction that leads to contentment. A change will be enlightening and encourage you to make the most of each day. Your numbers are 5, 11, 19, 27, 36, 42, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Stop beating yourself up and start enjoying the things that make you happy. Channel your energy into something you feel passionate about, and you'll discover something you want to pursue wholeheartedly. Change is up to you. Follow your heart. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* An emotional situation will escalate quickly. Take control and put a positive spin on whatever develops to maintain peace and order. It's up to you to keep things manageable instead of letting them spin out of control. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Spend time with those you know and trust instead of trying to make new connections. Tried-and-true methods won't disappoint. Put your heart into learning and achieving what you set out to do, and you'll be happy with the results. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stretch your imagination; you'll come up with an idea that opens a window of opportunity that you least expect. Don't stand in the way of progress because you are hesitant to do things differently. An adventure will expand your mind. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* An unpredictable attitude can be advantageous if multitasking is required. Jumping from one thing to another with ease and grace will make it look easy and impress onlookers. Stand tall, do your own thing and see what happens. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You are perfectly able to make a move if you hustle. Assess the situation quickly. You don't want to waste a moment when the timing is right. Pull in the people you feel comfortable sharing with, then proceed. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take your time. Overreacting or making assumptions will backfire. Stick to your original plans, and home in on what's important and needs to be taken care of before moving on to other projects and pursuits. Keep the peace and do your own thing. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Underlying emotional turmoil will get to you if you don't address issues swiftly. Do what's necessary to ensure everyone knows how you feel. Being secretive will only confuse those around you, leaving you in a vulnerable position. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Pay attention to money matters, what old friends or relatives are going through and contracts coming to term. Staying on top of small details and principles will help you ward off interference and criticism. Stick to your plan. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll have plenty to do, and you'll get good results if you push forward with the changes you want to make. A partnership will get the boost it needs to bring you closer together. Physical improvements and romance are encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Set your sights on what's important to you, and don't look back. Lift barriers, and embrace what life has to offer. Don't wait for someone to beat you to the punch. Take advantage of every opportunity to make things happen. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Ask, and you shall receive. Don't be shy; do something if you want to see things change. Become the driving force behind what you want to happen, and you'll have no regrets. Assess your situation and make your move. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are clearsighted, opportunistic and persuasive. You are deliberate and masterful.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2	7			3	6			
9			7	5			4	
					9	3		
	5		8		7	4		3
7	2						1	8
3		1	5		2		9	
		7	3					
	6			2	8			7
			6	7			3	1

Difficulty Level ★ 2/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	1	8	4	6	2	9	5	3
4	5	6	3	9	8	7	2	1
3	9	2	7	5	1	8	6	4
2	4	7	1	8	3	6	9	5
6	3	1	5	7	9	2	4	8
5	8	9	2	4	6	3	1	7
1	7	3	6	2	4	5	8	9
8	6	5	9	1	7	4	3	2
9	2	4	8	3	5	1	7	6

Difficulty level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS Solution: 4 letters

S	E	S	O	R	R	O	M	A	N	T	I	C	L	V
O	I	T	A	P	A	R	K	N	O	I	H	S	A	F
S	M	H	A	E	U	Q	I	T	N	A	U	L	M	S
E	U	G	O	L	T	H	G	I	N	O	E	E	R	U
S	S	I	K	T	P	R	A	D	I	N	M	E	O	R
I	I	L	T	O	E	T	E	C	T	O	W	V	F	P
U	C	R	R	V	R	L	I	I	R	O	P	I	E	R
R	A	C	R	U	I	L	N	A	L	L	A	E	D	I
C	H	E	C	E	E	E	B	F	T	E	E	W	S	S
H	S	T	R	D	S	L	T	R	E	S	S	E	D	E
E	L	A	F	D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	V
E	A	D	A	D	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	A	O
R	T	Y	N	R	M	A	Y	N	O	C	L	A	B	L
S	E	H	C	A	E	B	S	E	C	O	U	P	L	E
N	P	U	Y	C	E	N	T	E	R	P	I	E	C	E

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Antique, Balcony, Band, Beach, Card, Cart, Centerpiece, Chandelier, Cheers, Couple, Cruise, Curtain, Date, Decoration, Delicious, Dessert, Fancy, Fashion, Flowers, Formal, Hotel, Ideal, Kiss, Lights, Love, Memorable, Music, Night, Park, Patio, Petals, Pier, Plate, Porch, Romantic, Roses, Server, Suit, Surprise, Sweet, Vacation, Valentine's Day, Vase, View

Last Friday's Answer: Octothorp

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books. visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Klay has 33 in best game of return, Warriors edge Lakers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)— Klay Thompson scored 16 of his season-high 33 points in the fourth quarter, Stephen Curry made a clutch layup with 46 seconds remaining, and the Golden State Warriors held off the Los Angeles Lakers 117-115 on Saturday night, spoiling another scoring milestone by LeBron James.

Curry finished with 24 points and eight assists, while Andrew Wiggins scored 19 points to help the Warriors end a two-game losing streak. Golden State has not lost three in a row all season.

Thompson's big night came in front of his father, former NBA player Mychal Thompson, who works on the Lakers radio broadcast.

"It meant something special to do it for my dad," Thompson said. "I don't think he's seen me play for a few years. I know he was proud of me, and that's always fun."

James had 26 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists, but missed the first free throw after Curry fouled him attempting a 3-pointer with 2.4 seconds left. He made the second and missed the third intentionally but couldn't chase down the rebound in time to get a shot off.

"This one hurts," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We were up six with a few minutes to play. Just one of those nights where a lot of bad bounces didn't go our way."

Earlier in the night, James extended his streak of 25 points or more to 22 games and passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for most points scored in the NBA combining the regular season and postseason with 44,157. James tied Abdul-Jabbar's mark of 44,149 in the first half, then surpassed it with a 3-pointer early in the third quarter.

Abdul-Jabbar still owns the career record for regular-season games with 38,387 points, considered the more prestigious of the two scoring milestones. James, with 36,526, is closing in on that one, too.

"We had an opportunity to win a big game tonight," James said. "But in all my career, any time I've been linked with some of the greats, I've always just been in awe."

Thompson, who returned this season after missing 941 days with a pair of serious leg injuries, shot 12 of 22 and made four 3s, three in the fourth quarter.

"Just took over the game at a time when we desperately needed him," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "With our offense kind of struggling to find a groove he got hot and took over the game. Klay is special. It goes beyond making shots. He brings an electricity to the building that's hard to quantify."

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Jonathan Kuminga (00) defends against Los Angeles Lakers guard Talen Horton-Tucker (5) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022.

It was Thompson's most points since putting up 43 against the Knicks on Jan. 8, 2019.

The Warriors needed it on a night when Curry struggled from the perimeter. The NBA's 3-point king was 1 of 8 beyond the arc but made up for it by going 9 for 9 on free throws.

Jonathan Kuminga added 18 points and nine rebounds for the Warriors.

Russell Westbrook returned after missing a game and broke out of his scoring slump with 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists for the Lakers.

The Warriors led by 15 on Thompson's corner 3 and Otto Porter Jr.'s layup before the Lakers closed the gap and got within 65-62 at the half following Avery Bradley's 3-pointer.

Curry and Kuminga combined for 33 points in the first half on 12-of-19 shooting.

Heat 115, Nets 111

In Miami, Bam Adebayo had 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Miami held off a furious rally from Kyrie Irving and Brooklyn.

Irving scored 20 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to help the Nets rally from a 21-point, third-quarter deficit before dropping their 11th straight game.

Cam Thomas' 3-pointer with 37 seconds left cut Miami's lead to 110-109. Down 113-111, the Nets had possession and an opportunity to tie or take the lead. But Kyle Lowry stole Thomas' pass, dribbled downcourt and found P.J. Tucker, who got fouled and converted his shots to secure Miami's fifth consecutive win.

Duncan Robinson finished with 17 points and hit 6-of-10 3-pointers, Jimmy Butler and Tyler Herro each scored 13 and Lowry had 13 points and six assists for the Eastern Conference-leading Heat.

76ers 103, Cavaliers 93

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had a triple-double of 40 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists along with a highlight-reel jam, and Philadelphia beat Cleveland.

The Sixers are awaiting the debut of James Harden, who was acquired before the trade deadline.

Tyrese Maxey added 16 points for Philadelphia, which has won both games since Thursday's blockbuster trade that sent disgruntled Ben Simmons to Brooklyn for Harden.

Embiid brought the house down with 1:47 left in the first half with a one-handed throw-down over Jarrett Allen that had fans – and even players – putting their hands to their heads. He finished 11 of 22 from the field, including 4 of 5 from 3-point range, and made 14 of 15 free throws.

Darius Garland scored 27 points to lead Cleveland.

Suns 132, Magic 105

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 26 points and Deandre Ayton had 17 points and 10 rebounds as Phoenix won its fifth straight game, beating Orlando.

Chris Paul recorded his 30th double-double of the season with 10 points and 15 assists, and the Suns had nine players score in double figures. Phoenix has won 16 of 17 games and owns the NBA's best record at 46-10.

The Magic were led by rookie guard Jalen Suggs, who scored 20 points, two shy of his career-high, and a season-high 10 assists. Cole Anthony scored 17 points, and Chuma Okeke had 15 points off the bench.

The Suns had a season-high 40 assists and just seven turnovers.

Grizzlies 125, Hornets 118

In Charloyye, N.C., Ja Morant scored 26 points, Desmond Bane added 25 and Memphis held off Charlotte for its fifth straight win.

Jaren Jackson Jr. had 18 points and 10 rebounds, while Steven Adams added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies (40-18), who have won eight of their last nine games while scoring at least 120 points in their last five.

Terry Rozier had 35 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who trailed by 35 before cutting the lead to four late in the fourth quarter. LaMelo Ball finished with 25 points and newly acquired Montrezl Harrell had 20 for the slumping Hornets, which has lost seven of their last eight games.

Nuggets 110, Raptors 109

In Toronto, rookie guard Bones Hyland made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 2:16 to play and Denver ended Toronto's winning streak at eight.

Nikola Jokic had 28 points and 15 rebounds, Jeff Green scored 19 points and Aaron Gordon had 13 as the Nuggets won for the third time time in four games.

Hyland scored 11 points and Will Barton had 10.

Pascal Siakam scored a season-high 35 points and had 10 rebounds, but the Raptors lost for the first time since Jan. 26 at Chicago. Fred VanVleet scored 25 points, Scottie Barnes had 17 and Gary Trent Jr. 11.

Bulls 106, Thunder 101

In Chicago, DeMar DeRozan scored 38 points, Nikola Vucevic added 31 points and 15 rebounds, and Chicago overcame a sluggish start to beat Oklahoma City.

DeRozan set a career high with his sixth straight 30-point game. The All-Star scored nine over the final five minutes.

Vucevic made 14 of 25 shots, though he also committed six turnovers. Coby White scored 16 and made four 3-pointers, helping the Bulls pull out the win, even though Zach LaVine missed the game because of a sore left knee. The All-Star struggled in Friday's win over Minnesota, and his status for the two remaining games before the All-Star break is in question.

Lu Dort led Oklahoma City with 31 points. Rookie Josh Giddey added 11 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double. Darius Bazley scored 17 as the Thunder lost their fifth straight.

Clippers 99, Mavericks 97

In Dallas, Reggie Jackson scored 24 points and Los Angeles held off Dallas in the final minute to earn another split in another two-game set between the teams.

Luka Doncic had 23 of his 45 points in the fourth quarter two nights after scoring 28 of his career-high 51 points in the first of Dallas' 112-105 win. Doncic had 15 rebounds and eight assists.

The LA victory in the rematch meant splits in all three two-game home sets over two seasons for teams that have met in the first round of the playoffs the past two years. The Clippers won both of those series.

Terance Mann had 21 points and nine rebounds, and Marcus Morris Sr. scored 20 as the Clippers ended a three-game losing streak.

Kings 123, Wizards 110

In Washington, De'Aaron Fox scored 26 points, Domantas Sabonis added 16 points and 11 rebounds in his second game with Sacramento, and the new-look Kings beat Washington for their second straight victory.

Harrison Barnes added 21 points for the Kings, who acquired six players this week before Thursday's trade deadline. In their first game with all six available, Sacramento shot a season-best 56.6% (43 of 76) from the floor.

Maurice Harkless added 17 points and Justin Holiday had 12 in his second game since joining Sabonis in a trade that sent both from Indiana to Sacramento.

Kyle Kuzma scored 22 points and Corey Kispert added 20 in the Wizards' first game since trading for Kristaps Porzingis on Thursday in a deal that sent Spencer Dinwiddie and Davis Bertans to Dallas. Porzingis (right knee) did not play.

Spurs 124, Pelicans 114

In New Orleans, Dejounte Murray had 31 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio beat New Orleans for a second double-digit, wire-to-wire victory in two nights.

Murray controlled the game with a combination of accurate perimeter shooting on pull-ups and fades alike, explosive drives and forceful finishing around the basket.

Lonnie Walker scored 17 points, Keldon Johnson added 16 and Doug McDermott had 15 for the Spurs (22-35), who have remained within touching distance of the final Western Conference play-in spot.

CJ McCollum had a season-high 36 points on 15-of-24 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds for New Orleans (22-34), which occupied the 10th and final play-in spot in the Western Conference standings when it acquired the star guard from Portland on Tuesday but is 0-2 since.

Trail Blazers 112, Knicks 103

In Portland, Ore., Anfernee Simons had 30 points and eight assists, and Portland erased a 23-point, third-quarter deficit to beat New York.

Newly acquired guard Josh Hart, one of several players new to Portland's roster after a flurry of trades before the deadline, added 23 points in his Blazers debut.

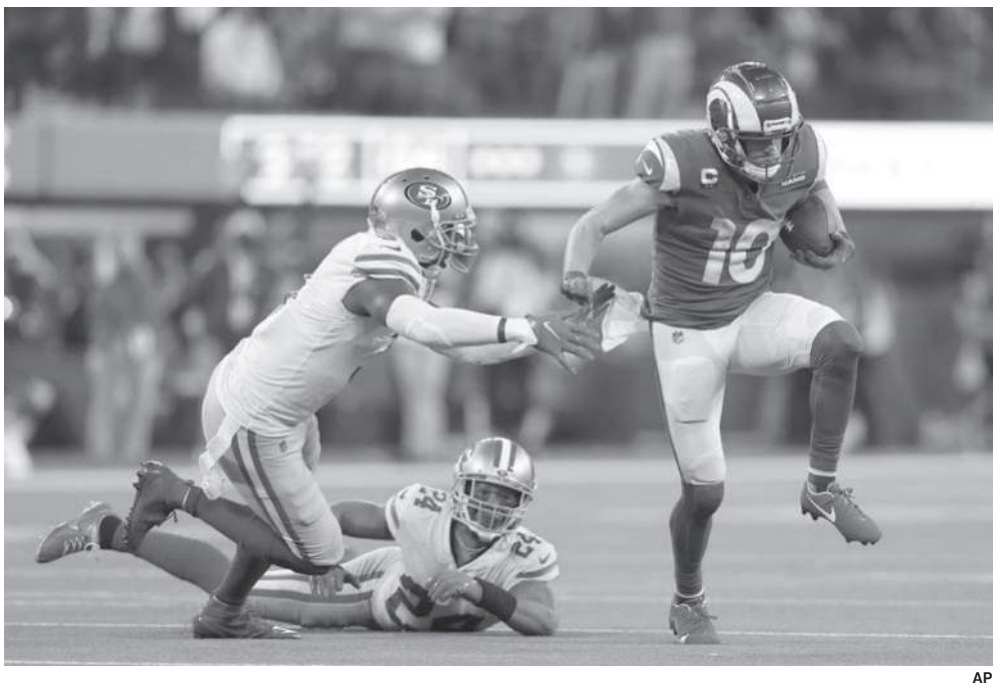
Portland closed the gap to-98-92 in the final period when Simons and Ben McLemore hit back-to-back 3-pointers. Jusuf Nurkic's dunk finally put Portland in front 99-98 with 4:23 left, capping a 20-4 run.

Portland outscored New York 35-11 in the fourth quarter.

Julius Randle led the Knicks with 28 points and 16 rebounds, while Kemba Walker added 23 points.

Super Bowl Matchup: Veteran Rams versus upstart Bengals

By BARRY WILNER
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



AP

Los Angeles Rams' Cooper Kupp (10) gets past San Francisco 49ers' Jaquiski Tartt, left, and K'Waun Williams (24) during the second half of the NFC Championship NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022, in Inglewood, Calif.

Across both Super Bowl rosters, there is a great divide.

The Rams are the team loaded with veterans and the Bengals are the new kids on the block. Los Angeles has the star power, which figures with Hollywood next door. Cincinnati has a bunch of relative no names outside of Joe Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase.

Bengals coach Zac Taylor worked for Rams boss Sean McVay — even though Taylor is more than two years older.

Both teams were No. 4 seeds after winning their divisions, so there are some similarities. It might be the differences that, well, make the difference on Feb. 13 at SoFi Stadium. Oh, yeah, that happens to be the Rams' new home.

WHEN THE BENGALS HAVE THE BALL:

Burrow (9) and Chase (1) are the Dynamic Duo for Cincinnati. They were at LSU and nothing changed when Chase, who sat out the 2020 season because of the COVID-19 pandemic, was chosen fifth overall in last April's draft. His effect has been immense, scoring 13 times on 81 receptions for 1,455 yards in the regular season.

Of course, Burrow has been just as impactful. He went 2-7-1 in a rookie season cut short by a knee injury and made a sensational return, as accurate as any passer in the league. Cool as they come — yes, Joe Cool — he had 34 touchdown passes, and in the Bengals' three postseason victories after having none since 1991, Burrow has gone 75 for 109 for 842 yards and four TDs, showing scrambling skills as well.

The key for LA to slow down that combination lies with the pass rush; Cincinnati allowed a league-high 51 sacks during the season, 12 more in the postseason. So unanimous All-Pro DT Aaron Donald (99), LB Leonard Floyd (54) and revitalized Von Miller (40), the MVP of the 2016 Super Bowl, must be negated somewhat. If the Bengals' offensive line, from tackles Jonah Williams (73) and Isaiah Prince (71) to center Trey Hopkins (66) to guards Quinton Spain (67) and the rotation of Hakeem Adeniji (77) and rookie Jackson Carman (79) don't step up, Burrow will go down a bunch.

If he gets the protection that has been missing too often, Chase's matchups with All-Pro CB Jalen Ramsey (5) could be epic. But Ramsey won't always be on Chase, who can break free on any route, and he also has some potent partners in WRs Tyler Boyd (83) and Tee Higgins (85), their battles with the remainder of the secondary could be significant.

In his seventh pro season, TE C.J. Uzomah (87) has emerged as a threat, but he damaged a knee last week and his status is questionable.

RB Joe Mixon (28), who ranked third with 1,205 rushing yards, can wear down defenses, but the Rams ranked sixth against the rush.

WHEN THE RAMS HAVE THE BALL:

Like with the trades that brought Miller and Ramsey on defense, the Rams have bolstered their offense immeasurably in recent years. They solidified left tackle five seasons back with Andrew Whitworth (77), who remains a stud at age 40.

Much more recently came QB Matthew Stafford (9), RB Sony Michel (25) and WR Odell Beckham Jr. (3). All of have been key contributors, though Stafford is by far the biggest upgrade.

Sure, the Rams made the 2019 Super Bowl with Jared Goff, but Stafford, finishing his 13th pro season, is a class above. After languishing in Detroit for a dozen years, he's been a main cog in the Rams getting this far.

No one is better against the blitz than Stafford, and while he can make some head-scratching throws and turn over the ball, he also makes some head-shaking passes that put you in awe.

And, like Burrow, he has one of the league's best targets in unanimous All-Pro WR Cooper Kupp (10). Opponents could put all 11 defenders on the guy and he'd still get free, as his triple crown of receiving shows: 145 receptions for 1,947 yards and 16 TDs. He's been just as unstoppable in the playoffs, and this could be a major mismatch. Bengals CBs Eli Apple (20), Chidobe Awuzie (22), Mike Hilton (21) and Tre Flowers (33) will be tests bigtime.

Cincinnati is stronger at safety with Vonn Bell (24), whose pick of Patrick Mahomes set up the winning field goal for the AFC title, and Jessie Bates III (30). The entire bunch also must account for Beckham, who seems to be reenergized in LA, and Van Jefferson (12).

Michel and Cam Akers (23), who came back quickly from a torn Achilles tendon, share backfield duties, but this is a throw-first team operating behind standouts such as Whitworth. The 16-year veteran figures to be challenged by Cincinnati's top pass rusher, Trey Hendrickson (91), and DE Sam Hubbard (94), who was terrific against the Chiefs.

The Bengals don't have a linebacker in Miller's class, but Logan Wilson (55) and Germaine Pratt (57) have made some key plays in the postseason.

SPECIAL TEAMS:

It's all about rookie Evan McPherson (2). The fifth-round draft choice — no, Cincinnati did not bungle a pick on a kicker here — the kid has hit all 12 of his field goals, including four in the wild-card round, then winners at Tennessee and Kansas City.

P Kevin Huber (10) did not have a particularly strong season, but he's a veteran who has kicked in the postseason before.

LA's Matt Gay (8) is steady enough, and he also has two straight winning field goals in the playoffs.

P Johnny Hekker (6) has been one of the league's best punters for a decade, and is a threat on fake punts.

Neither team scares you on kick returns.

COACHING:

This is so juicy.

Taylor spent two years working for McVay and didn't even reach coordinator status when the Bengals came calling in 2019. He went 6-25-1 his first two seasons, but the Bengals were building their roster. His work in the past six weeks has been particularly exemplary.

McVay remains the poster child — OK, he's a wise old 36 — for hot-shot offensive minds. His game management has been questioned, but it's hard to argue with four playoff trips in five seasons, and a Super Bowl loss three years ago.

Two assistants worth high praise: Bengals defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo, who has done a lot with no real stars except Hendrickson, and Rams offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell, who like Anarumo has gotten some head coaching interviews.

INTANGIBLES:

The Rams are built for now. They have been all-in on this season, using lots of draft capital — not to mention $$$ capital — on this roster.

They also have the bitter memory of a putrid performance against New England in the 2019 Super Bowl.

For those who think this is gravy for the surprising Bengals, remember they are 0-2 in Super Bowls, both losses to the dynastic 49ers, though in close contests. They also hadn't won a postseason game since 1991. What do they have to lose now?

Rams and Bengals put past aside in Super Bowl LVI

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's been nearly three decades since the city where the Super Bowl began last hosted the big game. The year was 1993 and, if you're looking for an indication how much times have changed, O.J. Simpson did the pregame coin flip and Michael Jackson thrilled the country with a spectacular halftime show at the Rose Bowl.

The Rams weren't in the game, not even close. They finished 6-10 on the season and owner Georgia Frontiere was busy plotting the team's escape from Southern California, eventually landing in St. Louis in what may have been the worst move ever by a modern-day sports franchise.

The Rams eventually returned, though it cost them a generation of fan loyalty. That means the new Rams are still a work in progress in a city where they once reigned supreme — as evidenced by the mass of San Francisco faithful who just might have outnumbered the locals at the NFC championship game in the imposing new stadium that cost current owner Stan Kroenke a reported $5 billion to build.

Still, nothing builds love more than a Super Bowl championship. And now the Rams of Los Angeles not only have a chance to win their first Super Bowl but do it Sunday in a home stadium that no other city can come close to matching.

"There's a lot of reasons for this city to be excited about this team," Rams coach Sean McVay said. "We've got great players. It's a fun brand of football that you're seeing them play, and then you got this iconic venue that we're able to play out. And oh, by the way, that's where the Super Bowl is, even though we're the away team."

Being the away team shouldn't be much of a problem for the Rams. This is a team, after all, that was away from 1995 until 2016, when Kroenke brought them back for the same reason they left: more money and bigger profits.

They have a long, fractured history in Los Angeles, a city that embraced them warmly when they moved from Cleveland the year after World War II ended. But the fact remains the only Super Bowl won by a team with horns on its helmets was won in 2000 when the Rams were, yes, in St. Louis.

In a way it's fitting that the team standing in the way of that championship is form another city that has never celebrated a Super Bowl win. The Bengals for the most part have been hapless over the years, aside from a couple of Super Bowl runs in the 1980s that didn't end well.

Now they have Joe Burrow and, two seasons after winning just two games, are within 60 minutes of capping off an improbable playoff run themselves.

Oddsmakers don't like their chances, making them a 4-point underdog to a Rams team loaded with star talent. But the city is abuzz, with residents shooting off fireworks and honking horns after the Bengals beat Kansas City in overtime in the AFC championship game.

"The best way to describe it for the city is it's like waking up from a long nightmare," said Joe Kay, a retired Associated Press sportswriter who covered the team through 40 seasons. "It had been more than 30 years since they even won a playoff game."

The easy narrative would be to cheer for the underdog team from a working class town. Unlike LA, Cincinnati has no movie stars, no beaches, no perfect weather and certainly no $5 billion stadium.

But it does have iconic chili. It does have Joe Burrow.

And, soon, maybe a lot more Joes.

"I would imagine nine, 10 months from now, there's going to be a lot of babies named Joe. … That's the impact he's had on Cincinnati," Bengals coach Zac Taylor said.

Indeed, the fit between the city and its star quarterback couldn't be better. Burrow grew up in a hardscrabble area of Ohio, just a few hours from Cincinnati, though in his hometown of The Plains fans rooted mostly for the Pittsburgh Steelers or the Cleveland Browns.

"Growing up, it was nobody really ever talked about the Bengals too much," Burrow said. "And I think it's exciting for us, exciting for the city that, you know, the Bengals are starting to, you know, people are starting to realize that we're really good team and an exciting team as well."

The same thing could be said about the Rams and their city, so maybe in the end these teams and their towns aren't so different.

That will change Sunday night when only one can proudly claim they're Super Bowl champions.

Another German sliding gold, as Neise wins Olympic skeleton

BEIJING (AP)—Hannah Neise has never won a World Cup medal. Or a medal at the world championships. Or a medal from the European championships.

She's got an Olympic medal now.

And it's the one that everybody wants.

Skeleton has a new champion, and she was a bit of a surprise winner. Neise, the 21-year-old who won the junior world title last year, became the first German woman to capture the gold medal in Olympic skeleton by rallying in the final two heats at the Beijing Games on Saturday.

"It is mindblowing," Neise said. "I can't realize it right now. I think it'll take some time to realize it. It's an unbelievable feeling."

Her four-run time was 4 minutes, 7.62 seconds. Jaclyn Narracott of Australia — the midpoint leader of the event — won the silver in 4:08.24 and World Cup overall champion Kimberley Bos of the Netherlands took the bronze in 4:08.46.

Neise's win might have been a bit of a stunner, but at this point, nothing Germany does on this track should be that surprising. After six sliding events at the Beijing Games — four in luge, two in skeleton — the Germans have captured six gold medals.

Oh, and in the four remaining bobsled races — two for men, two for women — Germany features the reigning Olympic champion drivers in Francesco Friedrich and Mariama Jamanka.

"It means a lot, especially for skeleton sliders," Neise said. "We haven't had so much medals the past years and we're very proud to represent our country and our federation."

Tina Hermann of Germany was fourth and Mirela Rahneva of Canada, the first-run leader, was fifth.

Neise's win capped a year that was unpredictable in women's skeleton from the outset. There were eight World Cup races leading up to the Olympics, with five different winners and 11 different medalists — Neise not being one of them.

AP

Hannah Neise, of Germany, celebrate winning the gold medal in the women's skeleton at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, in the Yanqing district of Beijing.

But there was a big hint that she could contend at the Olympics. There was a preseason race at the Yanqing Sliding Center after three weeks of international training this fall, and Neise was second in that event.

Clearly, she figured some things out about the new track faster than most everyone else did.

"I knew I could do it if my runs were good," Neise said.

Katie Uhlaender, racing in her fifth Olympics, was the top American and finished sixth in 4:09.23. Uhlaender strained a muscle in her side before competing Saturday and still moved up two spots from where she was after Friday's first two runs of the competition.

"I had a plan today about what I wanted to adjust and I accomplished it," Uhlaender said. "My push wasn't where I wanted, but you know. And I was just thinking of all the people that wanted to be here that couldn't. All the people that came in fourth in an Olympics before and wanted another shot, and I was lucky enough to get that."

PITCHING

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"No predictions to be made but I know all of us will go out and compete as a team and prove [our abilities to] everyone despite the pandemic and the past two typhoons that destroyed our field," said Jones, who last visited the CNMI in July 2014.

After helping the CNMI to gold in Noumea, Jones went to the mainland for junior college, where he had a 6-4, 3.25 record as a freshman and 5-1, 2.80 as a sophomore with over a strikeout per inning.

He transferred to Western Alabama and posted a 5-1, 3.25 record as a junior. He was 7-0 with a 3.86 ERA as a senior, tying for ninth in the Gulf South Conference in wins and finishing his collegiate career at 23-6.

SBL president Jay Santos welcomed Jones to the national team and acknowledged that there was some pushback about his selection at first.

"He's been playing baseball and we do need pitching. There's a bit of controversy for putting him now and have him play in the squad. I know some of the players questioned it too and initially I was the one who was adamant that we should go with the players that we have on island. I accept that responsibility for that comment."

Ultimately, Santos said the SBL gave the coaching staff the green light to bring in Jones.

"I did also say that we'll leave it to the coaching staff to decide what's best for our roster. I have absolute trust in Manny, Gary, and Derron and confident with their decisions and we'll be successful."

The biggest challenge now is for Jones to get acclimated as soon as possible with his teammates and coaching staff.

"I wish he was here now so he can practice alongside the rest of the guys. I'm really familiar with him. He's played on some good competition out here and he certainly proved his worth. We understand that he has family and work responsibilities as well."

Hopefully, Santos said Jones will arrive in March or in April just in time to mesh with the rest of the national team and if the schedule precludes, help with the youth baseball camps the SBL is planning alongside the rest of the CNMI National Baseball Team.

STEELE

From Page 20

players, both men and women, have a lot of potential to play in high-level competitions, such as the various collegiate leagues in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

Walla Walla University participates in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics under the Cascade Collegiate Conference. The Wolves play against 13 other teams in the CCC, including Warner Pacific, where Steele's fellow NMI standout and MP United teammate, Sunjoon Tenorio, is suiting up.

Strong program, right direction

In the last three years, the NMIFA has seen significant growth in the number of NMI players who got recruited to play in college.

Guine Borja, Katrina Costales, Lilian and Dai Podziewski, Stephanie Flores, Stela McCallion, Rintaro Miyawaki, Thaiphi Austria, Kohtaro Goto, Dev Bachani, and Sunjoon Tenorio are on the 2020-2022 list of NMI players that were either given a chance to play in the collegiate ranks or have committed to play in a U.S. university. Before 2020, one or two NMI players were able to join a collegiate squad.

The rise, according to Mita, is a testament to the NMI's strong grassroots program and the combined efforts of everyone involved in growing the sport on the islands—from volunteer coaches to the players' supportive parents.

"Everyone is working hard to help our players have these achievements. This (having more NMI players compete in college level) proves that we are heading to right direction, that we have very capable men and women players that can play in higher level competitions," Mita said.

Steele echoed Mita's thoughts, as he is confident that more NMI players will get the opportunity to play off-island.

"Stay dedicated to the sport. If you feel like it's soccer that you really want to do, pursue it. Practice more and focused on getting better every day," Steele said when asked for a message to his fellow players.

SAIPAN

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mediocrity for so long. However, the Rams have a sob story of their down, as a Super Bowl ring would be nice fairytale ending for quarterback Matthew Stafford, who endured all those loses with those woeful Detroit Lions.

Seriously, I have no horse in this race as I've always been a New England Patriots and Tom Brady fan (happy retirement GOAT). So, let's have those with emotional attachments to this game chime in.

On a purely coincidental note, I just watched American Underdog this past weekend and it pretty much summed up former St. Louis signal-caller Kurt Warner's rags-to-riches rise from the Arena Football League to Super Bowl XXXIV champion (and Super Bowl MVP). Could it be a harbinger of today's game? We shall see.

■■■

Joe Burrow overcame nine sacks against the Titans and danced through an impressive

Del Rosario

Chiefs rush to get the Bengals to this stage.

Most of the game matchups favor the Rams, but the Bengals just have a team of destiny feel to them. Nothing seems to faze Joe Burrow. Score: 24-21, Bengals.

—Norman Del Rosario, MPU FC technical director

Camacho

The Rams defense is gonna be the key. But credit to the Bengals offense. They'll keep it interesting.

The final score is looking to be 28-20 Rams

—George Camacho, SBL vice president

I'm from SoCal. My Chargers suck and my Patriots are rebuilding. The Rams are all we got. Go LA!

Rams 35-14 or Rams win by at least two touchdowns!

—Richard McWilliams, The Game forward

Suda

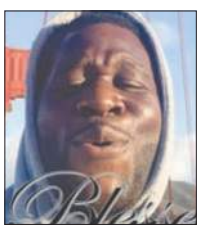
Very tight defense on both sides. Offense by Bengals would leak through in the end so I'll call it a 23-21Bengals.

—Burt Suda, Fil-Taga member

Dela Cruz

I'm going for the Ram to take this. I'm not one of those guys that can call a score. But if I were to guess 30+ points for the Rams and Bengals below 30.

—Edward Dela Cruz Jr., Run Saipan president



McWilliam

About time that the Rams become champions again. It's been over two decades since they've won it all. Besides they've got a very good quarterback in Matthew Stafford. The score will be 26-17.

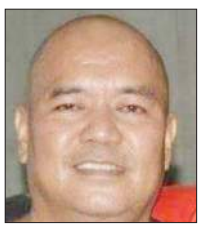
—Alvin Alvarez, basketball announcer

I like the Rams. The team they have is a good defensive team. The score will be 24-3.

—Richard Pambid, veteran cager

I'm rooting for the Rams because they're a Los Angeles team…24-3, Rams.

—Jay Santos, SBL president



Alvarez

Bengals! I always go for the underdog team and also, Cincinnati is one of my favorite teams in the NFL growing up besides the Detroit Lions. The score will be 33-30 after a late FG by the Bengals kicker Evan MacPherson.

—Leo Pascua, Rampage playing coach

Pambid

Rams. They're the one with the stars that are also workhorses. Aaron Donald, Odell Cornelious Beckham Jr., Jalen Ramsey,

Santos

Pascua

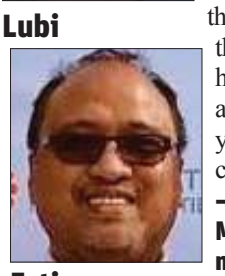
Tyler Higbee plus quarterback Matthew Stafford are a good fit. Add to that the home field advantage. Not convinced Bengals can match up. Score will be 35-21, Rams.

—Chris Lubi, MIFICPA member

Lubi

The Rams will win because of Matthew Stafford and the fact that they have home-field advantage. It's their year but it will be close, 27-25.

—Marlon Estigoy, MIFICPA member



Estigoy

Bengals winning by 6 points or less. I'm just guessing, cause I'm not updated about the NFL anymore.

—Jon Perez, former Saipan reporter

Perez

Klay has 33 in best game of return, Warriors edge Lakers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Another German sliding gold, as Neise wins Olympic skeleton

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Pitching ace excited for Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI got a big boost when former Western Alabama flame-throwing pitcher Josh Jones agreed to don the Commonwealth's colors anew in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

The former Saipan Little League star, who helped the CNMI win gold in the 2011 Pacific Games in Noumea, New Caledonia, said he can't wait to represent his home islands again in the quadrennial event.

"I couldn't be more excited that we're back on Saipan and we get to play in front of our people in a bigger stage to defend that gold. Last time I played representing the CNMI and playing in home turf was in the 2008 Senior League Regional tournament. It's been way too long," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

With the Saipan Baseball League mothballed the past couple of seasons due to the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic, in the 29-year-old Jones the CNMI National Baseball Team has a player who actually has been playing ball, albeit in the U.S. mainland.

"I am familiar with the roster. Some I grew up watching, some I played against, and some I watch grow playing the game when they were little. Now we all get to be teammates. It's a really good mix of newbies and vets. I'm just right in between. We have a quality connection and will continue to grow above and beyond; we have 140 days left I believe to do so," said Jones when asked about his familiarity with rest of his teammates in the national team.

The inventory specialist/training coordinator at Caterpillar Heavy Equipment Machinery appreciates that manager Manny Sablan and coaches Derron Flores and Gary Cruz have such high regard of his pitching prowess that they picked him sans any tryouts.

"I was in touch even before I was selected. They did a great job on what I needed to know and accomplish out here," said Jones who currently plays in the Arizona National Adult Baseball Association.

Asked what he thinks is the ceiling for the Mini Games team, Jones opted to be non-committal.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Saipan Little League standout Josh Jones currently plays in the Arizona National Adult Baseball Association.

Steele moving up to collegiate ranks

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMI player Richard Steele will be bringing his act in the collegiate ranks after committing to Walla Walla University in Washington.

Steele signed his letter of commitment to the Wolves last Saturday at the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association office in Koblerville in the presence of his family, NMIFA officials, and Walla Walla University men's soccer head coach William Burns (virtual).

"I am excited for this opportunity and would like to thank everyone who has been part of my journey," said Steele, who is on the NMI Boys U18 National Team pool and also plays for the MP United Football Club.

The 18-year-old, who has won a couple of Golden Boot awards in local leagues, said he is expected to take on left swing spot for the Wolves and help the team on offense. Steele will jump into the collegiate ranks after returning to Saipan from California and spending his last year in high school here. He added that after moving back from California, he knew right there that he will get back into the NMIFA program, which through the years has successfully developed players and helped them grow and get ready for competitions outside the NMI.

Meanwhile, Burns said that Wolves are excited to welcome Steele on the team this fall. The coach also said that they are open to a possible partnership with the NMIFA, as they hope that Steele will not be the first NMI player to suit up for the Wolves.

NMIFA technical director Michitetu Mita, who was with Steele at the signing ceremony, was pleased with Burns' offer, saying that the NMI

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Richard Steele, seated right, is joined by his family and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita for a group photo after signing to commit to play for Walla Walla University in Washington during a brief ceremony last Saturday at the NMIFA office in Koblerville.

Saipan Super Bowl LVI picks

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's that time of the year again where government workers mysteriously call in sick en masse and Commonwealth schools suddenly scheduling professional development training.

It's not Super Bowl Sunday where America's day begins—more like everything-else-stops Monday where traffic cops issue DUI tickets like it was going out of fashion.

But I digress, Super Bowl LVI pits the no-longer Bungles Cincinnati Bengals against the Los Angeles Rams (St. Louis sounds better for me).

While Cincinnati would be a nice Cinderella story as the Bengals have been mired in

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